



Inside this issue:

Danville Dam Removal	3-5
ILAFS Awards	6
Fish Sedative Use	7
New ILAFS Website	7
Subunit Updates	8
Spotlight on Grad Research	9
Dave Wahl in the News	10
Announcements	11-13
Annual Conference Information	13

President's Message, *Cory Suski*

Greetings All! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful holiday season. The past few months have been very busy for the Chapter, and I wanted to take a moment to update everyone on a couple of the more noteworthy events.

First and foremost is the fact that several Chapter members (notably Trent Thomas, Steve Pescitelli, Jeremy Tiemann and Randy Sauer) recently invested a great deal of time and effort to raise awareness of fisheries issues related to the removal of two dams in Danville. Information on how the aquatic community could benefit from dam removal was summarized in a convincing, succinct and effective letter that was sent to members of Danville city council on behalf of the Chapter. Trent, Steve, Jeremy and Randy all have a great deal of knowledge of fish communities at these locations, and their experience with stream ecosystems was apparent when the letter was being generated. While the final verdict on the future of these dams has not been decided, it is nice to see that Chapter professionals were able to participate in the debate, and hopefully improve conditions for aquatic resources. The generation of this letter is a great example of a collaborative, team effort to tackle a large

issue, as well as the role that AFS can play in these matters.

One other bit of news is that the Chapter now has a new and updated website that can be seen at <http://illinoisamericanfisheriessociety.weebly.com/>. This site came about thanks to the hard work of Toby Holda (currently a graduate student at Cornell University) and Ann Holtrop. This new site will serve the Chapter well for years to come, and provides a fabulous way for us to share activities and information.

Finally, I wanted to remind folks once again of the upcoming Chapter meeting on March 4-6 in Bloomington. Please visit the new website to register, upload your abstract and find out the details of the event. This should be a great meeting & I hope you can join us!



Chapter Objectives:

- Promotes training of fisheries professionals.
- Provides education outreach to the citizens of Illinois.
- Fosters research in fisheries and aquatic sciences.
- Provides sound fisheries policy information.
- Enhances communication and synergistic relationships amongst fisheries professionals.

Chapter Officers and Chairpersons

President: Cory Suski
 President-elect: Scott Stuewe
 Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Metzke
 Past President: Scott Shasteen
 Excom Members at Large: Karen Rivera/Kevin Irons
 Committee Chairpersons:
 Archival: Rich Lewis
 Arrangements: Trent Thomas/Mike Hooe
 Awards: Steve Pescitelli
 Continuing Education: Jonathan Leiman/Ben Lubinski
 Environmental Concerns: Rob Colombo/Randy Sauer
 IL Environmental Council: Vic Santucci
 IL Wildlife Action Team: Trent Thomas
 Membership: Matt Diana
 Newsletter: Lindsey Bock/Brian Metzke
 Raffle: Jim Lamer
 Resolutions: Rob Hilsabeck
 Student Concerns: Brian Metzke
 Student Subunits:
 Eastern Illinois: Joseph Zigler
 Southern Illinois: Anthony Porreca
 University of Illinois: Jeff Gring
 Time and Place: Scott Shasteen
 Website: Toby Holda/Ann Holtrop
 NCD Committee Reports Representatives:
 Centrarchid: Josh Sherwood
 Esocid: Rob Colombo
 Ictalurid: Jeremy Tiemann
 Rivers and Streams: Trent Thomas/
 Steve Pescitelli
 Walleye: Ken Clodfelter

Thanks to Our 2012 Corporate Members



Illinois Council Trout Unlimited



Professional Association of Conservation Resource Managers





The Illinois Chapter AFS Supports Removal of the Danville Dams, *Trent Thomas*

The City of Danville owns two low-head or run-of-the-river dams, Danville Dam on the Vermilion River and Ellsworth Park Dam on the North Fork Vermilion River. Danville Dam is the larger of the two dams at about 11 feet high and approximately 200 feet wide. It was constructed in 1914 by the Danville Street Railway & Light Company. Ownership was later transferred to General Motors Corporation, who repaired the dam in 1970. GM used the dam as a water intake for their upstream manufacturing facility, which operated a foundry. In 1972, GM transferred ownership of the dam to the City of Danville. The dam is now in disrepair with three sluice gates that are no longer functional (one is fully open), significant seepage through the dam face, and a crumbling dam crest.

Danville Dam has been the site of several drowning deaths, the most recent was a canoeing accident in June of 2003. Following the 2003 death, Mayor Scott Eisenhauer of the City of Danville assembled a planning committee to study the dam and examine alternatives. This led to a Strategic Study of Danville and Ellsworth Park Dam by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Water Resources in 2009, but a lack of funding prevented any major work to the dams at that time. However, Governor Pat Quinn's Dam Removal Initiative has once again brought this issue to light.

In addition to being a serious public safety hazard, Danville Dam also impacts the ecological health of the Vermilion River. Fish population surveys by the IDNR in 2004 and 2011 found significantly less fish species in the pooled reach when compared to the reach immediately below the dam, 23 compared to 37 in 2004 and 22 compared to 39 in 2011. The pooled reach also sports a dismal index of biotic integrity score (IBI) of 34, which is one of the lowest scores in the entire Vermilion River basin and compares to an outstanding score of 55 below the dam. Records of fish abundance and biomass show the same major impacts to the pooled reach of river. Eastern Illinois University has continued biological assessments at the dam sites. Since 2012, EIU has conducted 36 fish population surveys at an array of 12 sites located to provide two stations below each dam, two stations within the pool of each dam, and two stations upstream of the pool of each dam. Preliminary results are showing impacts similar to those shown by the IDNR surveys with a demonstrated rebound of fish population health in the free-flowing rivers upstream of the pooled reaches. EIU collected 54 species of fish in their first year of surveys, 20 (37%) of which show indications that their distribution is disrupted by the two dams.

The dams are having direct impacts on the distribution of several state-listed fish species, including bigeye chub, river herring, eastern sand darter, and bluebreast darter. None have been collected within the pooled reaches. Sport fish species are also impacted. The 2011 IDNR surveys show a significantly higher abundance of bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and smallmouth bass below the dams than in the pooled reaches. Largemouth bass was the only sport fish with comparable population numbers in the lake-like pooled reaches. Ellsworth Park Dam, the smaller dam at 6 feet high and 90 feet wide, on the North Fork Vermilion River shares similar problems as the larger Danville Dam. This dam is also the site of four drownings since 1970, disrupts fish distribution, and hinders fish population health in the pooled reach. The pools of both dams also experience water quality issues of algae blooms that cause water clarity and dissolved oxygen levels to drop precipitously during times of warm temperatures and low flows.

Danville Dam is located 22 miles upstream of the Vermilion River confluence with the Wabash River. The removal of both of these dams has the potential to open access to over 175 upstream miles of river, drastically improve habitat and water quality within the impacted reaches, and eliminate safety hazards that have plagued the recreational use of these rivers.

(continues on next page)



Dams near Danville under consideration for removal



The Illinois Chapter AFS Supports Removal of the Danville Dams, *Trent Thomas*

(from previous page) Most recently, dam removal was discussed as an agenda item at the Danville Public Works Committee meeting and later at the City Council meeting in March of 2012, with the promise of utilizing state capital funds to pay for the projects. The Governor's Dam Removal Initiative announced in October of 2012 solidified this state commitment to address unsafe dams. Opposition to the removal of these two dams organized quickly, and the confrontation came to a climax at a heated Open House Public Hearing in April of 2013. Since then, the IDNR Office of Water Resources completed a report of their recommendations to remove both dams. It was again presented as an agenda item of the Public Works Committee in September 2013 and failed to garner the votes necessary to approve removal to the City Council. A full City Council vote on dam removal was delayed to allow time to clarify funding options with the IDNR. Following an IDNR response, dam removal was again brought to the City Council in December 2013. A final vote scheduled for mid-December was postponed to allow full City Council attendance and to schedule another public hearing. The public hearing will be held in Danville at 6 pm on January 2, 2014. The Danville City Council is expected to vote on the dam removals at their meeting on January 7, 2014.

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society has expressed its support for removal of Danville Dam and Ellsworth Park Dam. This letter was sent to the Mayor and all of the Aldermen of Danville and is included below.

Letter to Danville, *Cory Suski, Trent Thomas, Randy Sauer, Jeremy Tiemann and Steve Pescitelli*

November 11, 2013

Mayor Eisenhauer:

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ILAFS) is the largest professional fisheries organization for Illinois, and represents over 250 professional scientists and managers employed by government agencies, universities, environmental consulting businesses, and non-profit environmental organizations. Our mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic sciences, and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. In keeping with that mission, we fully support the removal of two lowhead dams in the Vermilion River basin in Danville.

The AFS Parent Society Position on Dam Removal

Support from the Illinois Chapter follows the Policy Statement on Dam Removal (Policy #32) of the international AFS Parent Society. Policy #32 states, in part, that:

"Decisions about dam removal should rely on the best available scientific information [and] give full, objective consideration to local costs and benefits and broader, regional considerations. AFS supports dam removal when it is determined that both:

- 1) The benefits of dam removal outweigh the costs associated with societal, cultural, environmental, economic, engineering, and technical issues; and
- 2) Dam removal is the best approach to restore fish habitat and the fish populations and fisheries they supported. Removal decisions should be selected with full stakeholder involvement."

In our opinion, removing the lowhead dams in Danville meets both of these criteria.

Ecological Effects of the Vermilion River Dams on the Aquatic Community

The negative effects of dams have been well documented in the scientific literature, including published reports regarding dams on the Fox and Des Plaines rivers in Illinois. Negative effects present at the Danville Dam and Ellsworth Park Dam have been shared with stakeholders at numerous public meetings (most recently at the Open House on April 30, 2013 and the Public Works Committee meeting on September 10, 2013) and include:

- Reduced water quality above the dams, as evidenced by floating mats of filamentous algae in the Ellsworth Park Dam pool and diatom algae blooms in the Danville Dam pool;
- Loss of fish and mollusk species, as noted by Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Natural History Survey studies, which found nearly twice as many fish species (*continues on next page*)

**Letter to Danville, Cory Suski, Trent Thomas, Randy Sauer, Jeremy Tiemann and Steve Pescitelli**

(from previous page)

and about four times as many individual fishes (including game fish and state-threatened species) downstream of Danville Dam compared to those found within the pool upstream of the dam; Extirpation (local extinction) of species upstream of Danville Dam, including threatened and endangered freshwater mussels like the Black Sandshell;

Low biotic quality scores in the pools above the dams, which are among the lowest in the entire Vermilion River basin;

Impeded upstream movement of several species of fishes and freshwater mussels, as noted by Eastern Illinois University studies, which found that the distribution of 20 species of fishes (37 % of all species present) is disrupted by the two dams;

Impounding of this stream allows for habitat conditions that can benefit several invasive species (e.g. Common, Bighead, and Silver carps); because of its low height, persistence of this dam does not confine these invasive species downstream, and both common carp and Asian carp have been documented above both of these dams.

Potential Outcomes Following Dam Removal

Predicting the response of an ecosystem to dam removal can be challenging, but a few potential population level benefits that may be realized following removal of these dams include:

Several species of fishes and freshwater mollusks, including game species and threatened and endangered species will be provided the opportunity to recolonize historical areas upstream of the dams;

Threatened and endangered fish and freshwater mussel species, including the Bluebreast Darter, Eastern Sand Darter, Bigeye Chub, and River Redhorse, will be able to expand their ranges from upstream and downstream areas into formerly impounded areas, allowing them to become more common and increase their population sizes;

Several species of fishes, including Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, and the state threatened River Redhorse, will have improved access to spawning habitat, and should benefit from the improved habitat in the former impounded area;

The biotic integrity of the former impounded area should improve with recolonization by native stream species and attain similar quality as the free-flowing areas of the river;

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the Vermilion River basin as a Priority Watershed, and dam removal may serve as a catalyst for federal grant funding for extensive habitat work that will benefit the entire river basin.

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society strongly supports complete removal of the Danville and Ellsworth Park Dams as the best option for the fishery and entire stream ecosystem of the Vermilion River basin. It also appears to be a great opportunity for Danville to take advantage of the financial support for removal from the State of Illinois. In addition to the ecological benefits, removal of the dam also removes future financial and liability concerns for the community. Acknowledging the difficulty of your current decision, we encourage you to consider the long-term view and support improved and more sustainable conditions for the Vermilion River basin.

Sincerely yours,
Cory Suski, President
Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
University of Illinois - NRES
1102 S Goodwin Ave
Urbana, IL
61801
suski@illinois.edu



Awards Committee Report, *Steve Pescitelli*

PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AWARD –

Travel dollars are hard to come sometimes, so if you find yourself in a tight spot and need to get to the meeting – don't forget your Chapter offers a Professional Travel Award. Obviously, we also have a limited budget so get your application in early and, of course it always helps if you are involved in AFS activities at the meeting, and/or you are giving a paper or a poster, not to mention a paying Chapter member (another good reason to get your dues updated).

Contact Steve.pescitelli@illinois.gov for a form. Please send it in by February 7, 2013. Awards will be decided by the Ex-Com before February 13. Contact Steve for more information.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE and Stephen A. Forbes EXCELLENCE IN FISHERIES AWARDS -

We are now accepting nominations for both of these prestigious awards, to be presented at 2013 annual meeting.

Stephen A. Forbes Fisheries Excellence Award

This award will be given to fisheries professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession in Illinois. This contribution should be a collection of achievements over the individual's career which surpass normal job duties, and contribute to advancement of the profession through either research or management activities. While not necessarily a requirement, evaluation of the nominee should consider dissemination of their work by publication (in refereed or non-refereed formats) and/or presentations at AFS, or other profession meetings. Award recipients should be members of the Illinois Chapter during the period the work was accomplished. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page maximum) biographical sketch of the nominee, a brief (1 page maximum) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application. Nominations will be submitted to the Awards Committee and must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Illinois Chapter Meritorious Service Award

This award will recognize extraordinary service to the Chapter by an active or past member. Nominations may be based on a variety of service activities benefiting the Illinois Chapter which go beyond routine membership, and that has made a genuine and lasting contribution to the Chapter. Consideration may also include contributions to North Central Division or Parent Society. In the nomination, please describe the extent of the service to the Chapter in detail. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page maximum) biographical sketch, a brief (1 page maximum) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application. Nominations will be submitted to the Awards Committee and must be approved by the Executive Committee.

All nominations are reviewed by the ExCom. Please send your nomination letters to steve.pescitelli@illinois.gov before February 7



Fish Sedative Use, *Jim Bowker*

Dear AFS Chapter and Division Presidents,

I am requesting that you help us spread the word about legal use of fish drugs, particularly field use of fish sedatives, by providing the following link to an article that was recently published in Fisheries to your membership (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B43dblZlJqD3eWZrTHdMbEIDR3c/edit?usp=sharing>).

Over the years, we have found that many fisheries professionals continue to use clove oil (85-95% eugenol) and MS-222 as immediate-release sedatives, thinking that products that are Generally Recognized as Safe or are approved fish drugs must be okay to use in the field. Clove oil is not approved for any use in fish, and catchable fish treated with MS-222 cannot be immediately returned to the wild.

The primary goal of this outreach effort is to let fisheries professionals know that there is a legal option for sedating fish in the field where no withholding period is required: AQUIS-20. Although this drug is not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (the sponsor hopes to have an initial approval in 2015), AQUIS-20E can be used through authorization granted by the FDA to the USFWS's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAP). To learn more about using this fish sedative under the USFWS's Investigational New Animal Drug exemption, please visit the the AADAP website (<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/AQUIS-E.HTM>).

Your help in disseminating this information, via your listserv or in your Chapter or Division newsletter, is greatly appreciated. The Society will be spreading this message more broadly in the form of a Science Release currently in development. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Jesse Trushenski (saluski@siu.edu) or Jim Bowker (jim_bowker@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

Jim Bowker
Fishery Biologist
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program

Illinois AFS Announces New Website, *Brian Metzke and Ann Holtrop*

Although still under construction, the new Chapter website is active. Please visit:

<http://illinoisamericanfisheriessociety.weebly.com/>

The Chapter website will include :

- Current and past newsletter editions
- Membership renewal options
- Links to the student subunit websites
- Contact information for Chapter officers
- And information about annual meetings.





Western Illinois University Student Subunit Recognized by Chapter and Parent Society, *Brian Metzke*

Congratulations to the students and faculty mentor at Western Illinois University for achieving official recognition as a student subunit by both the Illinois Chapter and the Parent Society. Subunit President, Rebekah Haun and mentor Dr. Jim Lamer worked hard over the past several months to complete the approval process and obtain votes of affirmation from the AFS Governing Board and the Chapter Excom Committee.

The Chapter will formally recognize the WIU subunit at the 2014 annual meeting.

Western Illinois University Student Subunit Recognized by Chapter and Parent Society, *Rebekah Haun*

The WIU subunit has been meeting on a regular basis and has approximately ten consistent attendees. We participated in several fisheries activities during the fall semester including electrofishing at two lakes and on the Mississippi River, an Asian carp fish fry and a children's fishing event. During the spring semester we plan to visit a fish hatchery, conduct a kid's fishing expo and attend the IL AFS annual conference. We are currently trying to get all the IL AFS student subunits together to do a research symposium at Kibbe Field Station this coming semester. The purpose would be to hear about what other fisheries students are doing at other schools and to give graduate students a chance to present their research in a less formal setting. Also we would do some sort of fisheries techniques workshop. We are in the process of making t-shirts. And plan to advertise the subunit at WIU's activity fair in January. We also have a really nice bulletin board in Waggoner Hall (Biology building).

SIUC Student Subunit Update, *Anthony Perreca*

Officers have not changed as of the last update (Anthony Perreca (PhD student, Garvey Lab) is the president, Devon Oliver (PhD student, Whitedge Lab) is the vice president, and Jordan Thorngren (MS Student, Lydy Lab) is treasurer/secretary. Our faculty mentor is Dr. Jesse Trushenski. Fall activities included participating in the Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days at John A. Logan College.

The subunit had a booth at the event to educate the public on fisheries research at SIUC and raise money selling subunit merchandise. Additionally, we had a great turnout at our annual hog roast in late October. Future activities include conducting tours and taking students electrofishing for SIUC's spring open house days, along with our annual spring fish fry.

UIUC Student Subunit Update, *Jeff Gring*

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Student Subunit Chapter of the American Fisheries Society continues to promote fisheries conservation and education through organizing outreach events with the surrounding community and providing training and educational opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate student members. This past fall, our subunit organized and participated in an annual outreach event with a Champaign Central High School zoology class. We held a day-long sampling event with the class at Homer Lake (Homer, IL), where subunit members educated the students about fish communities and common sampling techniques. The high school students participated in backpack electroshocking, seining, angling, kick-seining, and fish/crayfish identification, while also learning about boat electroshocking through demonstration. The students helped sample both the lake and a nearby stream and subunit members educated the class on differences between lake and fluvial

fish communities. For many of the students, this was their first introduction to fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.

The UIUC subunit provided its members with several opportunities to improve their fisheries-related skills and knowledge this past semester. With the help of graduate students and UIUC faculty, our subunit held a fly tying workshop in the fall and has mussel and aquatic macroinvertebrate identification workshops scheduled for the winter and spring. These workshops provide subunit members with a valuable introduction to skills and knowledge pertinent to fisheries research and management. The UIUC subunit also facilitates collaboration and networking for all members through visiting professional speakers at monthly meetings. Speakers for this past fall have included Steve Butler (Illinois Natural History Survey Biologist), Dr. Andy Casper (Director of the Illinois River Biological Station) and Trent Thomas (Illinois Department of Natural Resources Biologist).



Spotlight on Graduate Student Research, Sarah Huck, EIU



I am a master's student in Dr. Rob Colombo's fisheries and aquatic research lab at Eastern Illinois University. My thesis project is entitled, "Assessment of Habitat Use, Range, and Movements of Flathead Catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) in the Wabash River Using Ultrasonic Telemetry". The goal of my research is to determine seasonal habitat use and movements of adult flathead catfish in the lower 200 miles of the Wabash River. Flathead catfish are highly sought after for commercial and recreational fisheries because of their flavorful flesh and predatory aggression when hooked. Although there is extensive research involving modes of capture and population demographics of flathead catfish, information pertaining to their mobility and habitat use is lacking. This data is not only crucial to ensure flathead catfish populations are properly managed, but to identify essential habitats used throughout life history stages and assure their availability. Furthermore, by as-

sessing and understanding the range, movements, and habitat use of flathead catfish throughout the year, managers will have the necessary information to maintain the success of the population in the lower Wabash River.

There is currently limited information on flathead catfish movement and habitat use. Studies that do exist are typically limited to spring and summer months and offer conflicting information. Several studies suggest that flathead catfish are a sedentary species, while others found individuals exhibiting larger movements to spawning and overwintering habitats. These movements to specific locations throughout the year suggest that habitat type plays a key role in the abundance, growth, and overall, success of the population. Along with evidence for possible seasonal migrations, variation in diel foraging activity patterns between summer months has also been documented. This information led us to hypothesize that variation in diel movements may also exist throughout the year. By assessing large- and small- scale movements and habitat use of adult flathead catfish throughout the year, we will be able to ensure proper management strategies are enforced, and identify habitats necessary for the success of the population.

The flathead catfish population in the lower Wabash River is the perfect candidate for my research because the fish are healthy and are able to move freely throughout. To monitor fish repeatedly throughout the year, we chose to use ultrasonic telemetry. I implanted coded ultrasonic transmitters in the body cavity of 44 adult flathead catfish ranging from 410mm to 1,220mm in total length. These fish were actively located by tracking the lower 175 miles of the river every season, supplemented with monthly site specific tracking. Each season, I also tracked fish continuously for 24 hours to examine variation in diel movements and habitat use. Together, these data will give us a better understanding of the mobility of the species, and help identify crucial habitats throughout life history stages.

Overall, fish have shown a primarily sedentary lifestyle throughout the year, with seasonal variation occurring in diel movements and habitat use. During spring and winter, flathead catfish were only found in shoreline habitats, while in summer and fall fish utilized a variety of main channel, shoreline, and tributary habitats. There was no indication of seasonal variation in the range of the species, however, continuous 24 hour tracking revealed seasonal differences. My research will determine specific patterns in movements and habitat preference throughout the year, giving insight to essential habitats necessary for the persistence and health of this population, and in turn, other populations in similar lotic systems.



Dave Wahl and Nephew Make the Evening News in New York, *WKBW TV*

A duck hunter was rescued from the Niagara River, after falling out of his boat just off the shores of Grand Island, when two strangers came to his aide.

Dave Wahl was hunting nearby with his nephew Riley, when they saw the man in trouble.

"We noticed his boat go up on end and he let out a big yell for help, so we jumped in our boat and got to him as quick as we could," Dave Wahl said.

The two Wahls were able to pull the fellow hunter onto shore to safety as first responders arrived. The man was taken to a local hospital in stable condition, he is expected to be OK. His dog, also rescued Monday morning, is also expected to be OK.

"Everybody's been telling us we saved his life, and that's my feeling too. Is that he probably was not going to make it if we didn't get him out," Dave Wahl said.

"We were just helping him out. That's what I think anybody would do if they saw it too," Riley Wahl added.

Fellow hunters who were out this morning when everything happened expressed their appreciation for the actions of the Good Samaritans as well.

"Scary scenario. I'm a duck hunter myself, and can't imagine being in the water. It's probably 33 degrees, he was probably in there for ten to fifteen minutes. Bad things could happen," Victor Kosloski said.

"It's a good thing that duck hunters stick together like we do, because he was by himself, so those guys went out and got him," Bill Haley added.

But the Wahls fall short of calling themselves heroes.

"We just did what we had to do and I'm glad it worked out. And that he's safe and hopefully back home and getting better," Dave Wahl added.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proposed Bylaw Change Update

During the Chapter's 2013 annual business meeting, a suggestion was made to separate the Secretary/Treasurer into two positions. All active members will be asked to vote on this and some other minor bylaw changes starting on February 3, 2104.

An email was sent to you earlier this week asking you to review the proposed changes. If you are unable to view the proposed bylaw changes by clicking the link directly <http://illinoisamericanfisheriessociety.weebly.com/bylaw-review.html> please copy and paste the URL into your web browser. This has done the trick for some members that have had trouble accessing the document.

If you continue to have issues viewing the proposed changes, please contact Ann Holtrop (217-785-4325 or ann.holtrop@illinois.gov).

Continuing Education Workshop

The Continuing Education Committee of the Illinois American Fisheries Society Announces a GIS for Fisheries Professionals Workshop:

SAVE THE DATE: February 6, 2014

Using GIS Software for Fisheries Science

The Continuing Education Committee of the IL/AFS invites you to participate in their next workshop on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Course content will be classroom based, and computers will be provided in a formal lab setting. Western Illinois University Professor Timothy Spier will be leading instruction; he can be reached at TW-Spier@wiu.edu. This course is being capped at 30 participants.

When: Workshop begins at 8:00 am on Thursday, February 6, 2014 and concludes at 5 p.m.

**Where: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
024 ACES LIAC MC – 631
1101 S. Goodwin Ave. Urbana, IL 61801**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Travel Award

The Illinois Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (IL AFS) will be awarding up to **4 travel grants** for students to attend this year's Annual Meeting. The grants will be **\$100 each** to help students to attend the Annual Meeting to be held at the Parke Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington from **March 4-6, 2014**.

Criteria for this selection will be based upon financial need and/or reason(s) for attending the meeting (e.g., paper presentation, pertinent paper session, IL AFS committee meeting). Students should include the above information and also state their class standing (i.e. junior, B.S. candidate), fisheries related interests, participation in IL AFS activities, and AFS membership status when applying. A letter from each applicant's advisor confirming the need for travel money is also required.

Grant recipients are asked to attend the Business Meeting at the conference to receive their awards.

ALL STUDENTS ARE URGED TO APPLY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE PRESENTING A PAPER!!!

Submit electronic (preferred) or paper applications

by: January 31, 2014

to: Nerissa McClelland
IL AFS Student Concerns Committee
IDNR-Havana Field Headquarters
700 S. 10th Street
Havana, Illinois 62644
Phone: (309) 543-3316 (ext. 224)
E-mail: nerissa.mcclelland@illinois.gov

World Fish Migration Day

Are you working on rivers, water and migratory fish and looking to enhance public awareness? Are you concerned about the health of our rivers?

Take part in **World Fish Migration Day 2014** on the **24th May**. This international event calls attention to the need to restore the connections in rivers for migratory fish, to achieve healthy fish stocks and productive rivers.

WHY DO WE CARE?

Migratory fish (like salmon, trout, dourada, shad, lamprey, giant catfish, sturgeon and eel) are threatened by barriers such as weirs, dams and sluices; built for water management, hydropower and land drainage. Around the world millions of people rely on these fishes as their primary source of protein and for their livelihoods. Water and resource managers, and conservationists are striving to improve migration routes between and within rivers, deltas and the oceans. These 'fishways' are vital for their survival. World Fish Migration Day is held to improve the publics' understanding of the importance of migratory fish and their needs, as well as healthy rivers. Raising awareness, sharing ideas, securing commitments and building communities around river basins are essential aspects of fish passage and river restoration. On this day, we will connect celebrations and events that start in New Zealand, and follow the sun; ending as the sun sets on the west coast of North America. More than 250 locations will be connected worldwide and we are looking for organizations that want to join this inspiring initiative. A map with current event locations can be found at: www.wanningenwaterconsult.nl/en.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORGANIZE AN EVENT?

Participating organizations will organize their own event (e.g. activity sessions, workshops or talks) and outreach communication, under the umbrella of the World Fish Migration Day. Educational material will be available to share with your visitors. Wanningen Water Consult & LINKit consult, partnering with WWF (NL), The Nature Conservancy and the FFSG, will take care of the central coordination, international publicity, and maintain the main website. All projects will be highlighted on this website, social media and in the press. For more information or to organize an event:

Email herman@wanningenwaterconsult.nl

Phone 0031-6-182 725 72

Web www.worldfishmigrationday.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Pescitelli Nominated as Chapter Secretary

Steve Pescitelli is currently a Stream Specialist with Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fisheries. He received his B.S. and M.S. from the University of Illinois where he did his thesis work under the guidance of Dr. Weldon Larimore at the Illinois Natural History Survey. Starting with the DNR in 1994, Steve has been working primarily on rivers and streams in Northeastern Illinois. His current responsibilities include: monitoring fish communities, management of riverine sport fisheries, habitat and stream restoration, permit review, watershed planning, and public outreach activities. Professional interests include: factors affecting fish community structure in rivers and streams; distribution and life history of stream fishes, fragmentation in aquatic systems, dam removal/fish passage, and stream habitat restoration. He has been very active in the area of dam removal and been involved in a number of projects throughout Northeastern Illinois. He has also organized and participated in many regional workshops and seminars related to dam removal and fish passage. Steve has been involved in the AFS at both the North Central Division and State Chapter levels. He served for 2 years as Chairperson of the NCD River and Streams Technical Committee as well as serving several years as State Representative. He has been a regular presenter at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting and organized a workshop and symposium on the evaluation of stream restoration practices. Steve is an annual contributor to the Illinois State Chapter meeting platform program and has served on Awards Committee Chairperson since 2007. Steve's resume would not be complete without mention of his "Sucker Biologist of the Year" Award, presented at the 2009 Chapter Meeting by president of S.U.C.K.E.R.S. Ben Snaggin (represented by M. Hooe). Steve and his wife Pam live in Sandwich, IL where he enjoys fishing, gardening, travel, and playing, writing, and recording music with his band Redhorse (go figure). They have 3 daughters, one at the University of Illinois in Urbana, and two working in Madison WI. He looks forward to expanding his involvement in the Illinois Chapter as Secretary.

Annual Conference Information

52nd Annual Meeting of the Illinois Chapter AFS Begins March 4 at 1pm and ends March 6 at 12pm. Parke Hotel, Bloomington (1413 Leslie Drive)

- ◆ Abstracts due January 31st.
- ◆ Rooms are reserved until February 18th. Call 309-662-4300 to reserve your room.
- ◆ Please visit our website or this link:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e803512v9d3053ad&llr=4qu5dfdab&showPage=true>

for registration and abstract submission, or contact Ann Holtrop (Ann.Holtrop@illinois.gov) for more information.