

PENNSYLVANIA
CHAPTER

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Winter 2015 Newsletter



2014/2015 Chapter Officers:

President:
Rebecca Dunlap

President-Elect:
Doug Fischer

Past-President:
Steve Means

Secretary / Treasurer:
Mary Walsh

ExCom 1:
Jordan Allison

ExCom 2:
Tom Shervinskie

Student Representative:
Chelsea Gilliland

Website Manager:
Rebecca Dunlap

Newsletter Editor:
**Bob Ventorini / Rebecca
Dunlap**

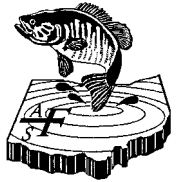
AMERICAN
FISHERIES
SOCIETY



Joint Meeting of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Chapters of the American Fisheries Society

**25–27 February 2015 ----Tom Ridge Environmental Center
Erie, Pennsylvania**

Join us February 25-27 in Erie, Pennsylvania for three days of engaging professional interactions with your regional colleagues! During the Joint Meeting of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Chapters of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) you will learn what fisheries professionals from across Pennsylvania and Ohio are working on during the technical and poster sessions, be challenged to think outside-of-the-box by two highly respected professionals, Drs. John Dettmers and Doug Austen, during the plenary sessions, be engaged in AFS Chapter happenings during the Chapter business meetings, and enjoy conversations and interactions with meeting attendees at the two socials.



The meeting is graciously being hosted by the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and lodging accommodations will be at the beautiful Avalon Hotel and Conference Center in the heart of downtown Erie, in easy walking distance of many downtown attractions and nightlife. Stay for the final day and participate in one of two workshops designed to hone your fish identification skills or expose you to a wide array of technologies becoming commonplace in the fisheries fields.

Registration for this event is still open! Visit the meeting webpage for more information:

<http://pa.fisheries.org/events/2015-spring-technical-meeting/>

Chapter updates available at: www.pa.fisheries.org

Joint Meeting of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Chapters of the American Fisheries Society

Continued...

Plenary Speakers

Douglas Austen, Ph.D – Executive Director – American Fisheries Society

John M. Dettmers - Fishery Management Program Director – Great Lakes Fishery Commission

Technical Sessions

The meeting includes 14 poster and 28 podium presentations scheduled; topics include Fish Kill Investigations, Interspecific Competition, Fish Movement, Mussel Distributions, Hatchery Techniques, Aquatic Invasive Species, Physiology, SONAR, Tagging Techniques, Modeling, and many others! We will also be joined by Dr. Doug Austen, Executive Director of AFS and Dr. John Dettmers, Program Director at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission who will present plenary presentations discussion connectivity in aquatic and organizational communities. As if that's not enough, both the PA and OH chapters will conduct business meetings at this assembly and we have plans for a great social.

Concurrent Continuing Education Workshops

Expanding Your Fisheries Techniques Toolbox: Developing a User Group

Answering difficult questions in fisheries science and management requires an ever-expanding set of approaches and technologies. Here we will provide a forum for interaction—participants will act as instructor and student. Those with an interesting technological method to demonstrate can provide a “blitz” presentation of 5–10 minutes to introduce the method and follow up by bringing hands-on materials for “show and tell”. Question and answer sessions will follow each demonstration.

Examples may include, but are not limited to: acoustic- and radio-based telemetry, electro-anesthesia, internal and external tagging methods, remote monitoring stations, and many more!

Pennsylvania & Ohio Fish Identification Refresher

Identifying rare and even common fishes often challenges seasoned fisheries professionals. This workshop will provide an informal, hands-on review of difficult to identify fishes. Field and lab

diagnostics will be covered using preserved specimens and known current distributions will be discussed. Furthermore, this workshop provides an opportunity to expand one's identification skills through exposure to geographically unfamiliar ichthyofauna.

Materials: Specimens, lab equipment, and ID hand-out materials will be provided.

A limited number of references (“Fishes of” books, field guides, etc.) will be available; attendees are encouraged to bring personal reference materials for Great Lakes, Interior, and Atlantic Slope drainages. We also encourage attendees to bring problematic specimens from their own collections.



More meeting information here:
<http://pa.fisheries.org/>

PAST PRESIDENT HOOK

After serving as your President for the past year it is time to step aside and welcome our new officers and give them a warm welcome and thank you for stepping up to serve our Chapter. In my first Presidents Hook, I discussed the challenges that were ahead and asked: Will we as a Chapter encounter rough water? Will we have mechanical problems that will require repair? Or will we persevere and be rewarded for our hard efforts?



Well here are the answers to those questions. Did we as a chapter encounter rough water? Not really, but it helped to have a great EXCOMM to keep the waters calm. However, mechanical problems happened midway through the year when our President Elect, Dr. Aaron McNevin, resigned from his post after accepting a position in another state. Our bylaws were not clear what steps should be taken, but in order to keep up with the timing of elections, our only choices were to either extend my time as President or convince an outgoing committee member to take over the President position. We were all fortunate that Rebecca Dunlap, our outgoing Secretary/Treasurer was willing to accept the call and take over the post as President for the 2014-2015 term. I can't say enough about how fortunate we have been to have Rebecca serve as our Secretary/Treasurer for the past few years. Rebecca's organizational skills with chapter activities, communication with members, and a total rebuild of our chapter website are a brief summary of her talents. There is no doubt that our new Chapter President will keep us on our toes and that her close attention to details will keep everything running without a hitch. We are also just as fortunate that Mary Walsh has accepted the challenges in filling the shoes of the Secretary/Treasurer position and will have a good mentor to assist her in the transition.

Have we persevered and been rewarded for our hard efforts? As President of the Chapter, I look back and see the accomplishments of a successful attendance at our "Evening with the Brook Trout" fall technical meeting, a full house attendance at our Professional Development workshop in April, and a great attendance of speakers for our Spring Technical Meeting. Finish this off with a super attendance at the summer picnic at Camp Bason on the West Branch Susquehanna River and I think we were all rewarded with a full belly and for all the work that many of our members have contributed over the past year. It is easy to look over the horizon and see our upcoming joint meeting with the Ohio chapter as a sign that we will continue to grow as a Chapter and be rewarded for the hard work of our members. One of those important members is Doug Fischer (President Elect) who is serving as the committee chair for our upcoming meeting in Erie. Doug's hard work along with our other committee members will be realized when we all sit down to a full slate of speakers and great meeting accommodations. These things just don't happen overnight and require a group of dedicated individuals to coordinate and complete.

As I said previously, it is not about the fish or the jobs that we do, but rather the people in this organization that can make a difference in the protection of our resources for future generations. You also get to meet some great people and forge friendships that will last a lifetime.

Best Wishes Steve Means, Past President.



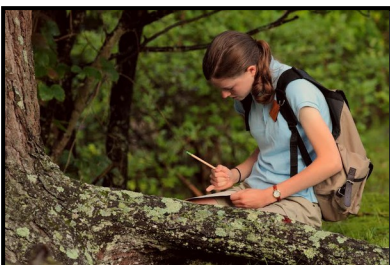
Wildlife Leadership Academy

Brookies Camp

Brookies Camp Reeled Me In

By Helen Fielding

This summer, Helen Fielding attended the Wildlife Leadership Academy PA Brookies field school which focuses on brook trout and cold water conservation. The mission of the Wildlife Leadership Academy is to empower youth to become ambassadors for wildlife conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife legacy for future generations. The academy offers high-achieving youngsters, ages 14-17, a comprehensive study of specific wildlife species, including classroom and field-based, hands-on education. Led by experts, including biologists and educators from across the state and beyond, the program also engages participants in team work, friendly competition, and an awareness of their natural world. The Wildlife Leadership Academy will announce 2015 field school offerings and locations on their website at www.PICEweb.org. Applications are available January 1, 2015; the submission deadline is April 1, 2015. Interested students may download the 2015 application at www.PICEweb.org. For more information, contact Wildlife Leadership Academy Director Michele Kittell at mkittell@piceweb.org or (570)245-8518. Continued on page 8...



Helen Fielding

Cal U Subunit

Chelsea Gilliland

Dr. David Argent



CalU Subunit

The CalU Subunit has made tremendous progress since its inception just over a year ago. The student chapter has held several fundraising activities including a t-shirt and flyrod sale. Members from the CalU Subunit also assisted the PFBC with Steelhead collection from Trout Run in November 2014 and were also able to tour the Fairview Hatchery and later in the day the Linesville Hatchery.

Five members of the subunit will be attending the Mid-west Fish and Wildlife Conference in early February. Ms. Chelsea Gilliland (PA Chapter Student Representative) will also be presenting two posters:

"Examining genetic diversity among Rainbow Darters (*Etheostoma caeruleum*) in the Monongahela River."

"Effects of body condition on fecundity of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) in the Upper Illinois River Watershed. Illinois River Biological Station. Havana, IL" -- based on work she did in summer 2013 with the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Please contact Dr. Dave Argent at argent@calu.edu for more information about supporting the CalU Subunit



Are you searching for a way to assist the Pennsylvania Chapter? We are currently seeking candidates to fulfill our newsletter editor and website manager responsibilities. Contact Chapter President Rebecca Dunlap at rebecca.dunlap01@gmail.com for more information.

For the past several years Bob Ventorini, previous president of the Pennsylvania Chapter, has graciously donated both his time and talent to develop our chapter newsletter. Bob took our chapter newsletter and promoted it to a level that incorporated both a scientific and artistic approach – a level our newsletter had never reached. We cannot thank Bob enough for his efforts. **THANK YOU!**

Thank you

2014 Spring Workshop - A Success

Many Thanks to those attendees and volunteers participating in the 2014 Spring Technical Workshop: Improving Skills in Professional Communications.

The workshop, geared towards young professionals and graduate students who had had some experience making public presentations, as well as upper level undergraduates conducting research and professionals looking to improve communication skills focused on planning and designing PowerPoint presentations and guidelines for effective oral presentations

The Chapter was fortunate to have both Bob Carline and Jim Finley instruct this workshop. Bob, now retired, is former Leader of the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife

Research Unit. He taught a graduate course in Professional Communications at Ohio State University and Penn State University. For many years, he judged oral presentations and posters at American Fisheries Society (AFS) meetings. He was the lead author in an AFS video production entitled “Designing Effective Slide Presentations”. He wrote the AFS “Guidelines for Designing Posters”, which was published in Fisheries

in 2007. Jim Finley, Ibberson Professor of Forest Resources Management, Director of the Center for Private Forests at Penn State, and Pennsylvania Extension Forester, has been on the School of Forest Resources and now the Department of Ecosystem Sciences and Management faculty for 39 years. In his extension role, he commonly presents information in varied venues, from formal research to talks designed to engage, motivate, or entertain audiences.



Steve Means, Bob Carline, and Jim Finley

VOTE NOW FOR THE 2015/2016 CHAPTER OFFICERS
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20TH, 2015
VOTE AT <http://pa.fisheries.org/elections/>

President Elect (one vacant position)

Tim Wertz – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Jordan Allison, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Excomm Representative

Dr. Dave Argent, California University of Pennsylvania

Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Walsh – Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Student Representative

Thomas Casey Weathers, Pennsylvania State University



Find out more about the slate of candidates at <http://pa.fisheries.org/elections/>

Summary: 2014 Summer Social & Chicken Barbeque



Sincere gratitude to both Steve and Beth Bason for hosting our annual summer picnic at their river-side property approximately 7.5 miles upstream of Lock Haven. Chapter members and their families gathered to paddle the West Brach of the Susquehanna, eat, drink, say goodbye to the outgoing Executive Committee members and welcome new officers.

ExCom member Jordan Allison enjoys fishing the West Branch of the Susquehanna amid swimming interference!

Future ExCom members, Current ExCom members, and chapter members enjoy the summer social



In Case You Missed It!

The Pennsylvania Chapter was featured in Fisheries!



Units, Step Right Up: Get Your Free Website

Jordan Allison


The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Prior to this year, the Pennsylvania Chapter's website was antiquated at best. If our former webpage were a person, that person was decked out in ill-fitting shoes and plaid-farm clothes and the mannequin was sporting muttonchops.

Several attempts to update our website were made over the past 3 years. These included contracting a webmaster who would work with us on the layout and design. However, the partnership did not function well due to our need to have more than just a static website. We needed to update the page frequently with modifications to our members, but instead we were left with a website that contained a lot of information about the past proceedings of the Chapter but few instructions about how to get involved or where to attend our next meeting.

Last year, during a conference call held by the Society to discuss the variety of services it provides to its Chapters, website design was one of the items on their agenda. Fully aware that we were struggling in this department, our secretary and treasurer contacted the Society to see whether we could improve our antiquated site. As it turns out, website design is no longer the daunting task that it was a mere 3 years ago. The Society introduced us to WordPress, an open-source content management platform, and now provide web hosting services to improve Chapter websites, which significantly reduces the cost of managing these pages. One of the major benefits of creating a webpage with WordPress is that it is easy to use.

Over the days of learning computer "languages" and writing endless lines of code to display your message in a visually pleasing fashion. Now, updating your web page and membership is as easy as typing in a text box.

With the help of Society staff—via the phone, no less—we built a fully functioning website within an hour that was intuitive to navigate and aesthetically pleasing. Information from our old site was seamlessly migrated to the new pages and announcements about upcoming Chapter activities were actually displayed on the homepage before they happened. Thanks to the support provided by the Society, Pennsylvania Chapter members now have a reliable source of information on upcoming events and limited travel grant opportunities or simply enjoy pictures of workshops and museum visits of yore past. You don't have to take my word for it, go ahead and check out the Pennsylvania Chapter's website pa.fisheries.org to see how we managed the support we received from the Society to improve communication with our membership. If your Chapter is experiencing similar difficulties, take this opportunity to contact the Content Director, Sarah Fox, at sarahfox@fisheriacs.org. The officers and the Executive Director have made it a priority for the Society to assist and communicate with the Units. Sarah will talk you through the easy process of creating your own Chapter website, and soon you'll have a free site that any of your members can contribute to and help manage. 

AFS American Fisheries Society
journals

PA AFS HATS ARE IN!!!

The Pennsylvania Chapter is once again selling hats. Hats cost \$15.00 each and are available in blue, khaki, and green. All proceeds from hat sales will go to the Cooper Award for students.

To purchase your hat, contact the chapter at pachapterafs@gmail.com or by contacting Jordan Allison at 570-337-5971. Hats will also be available at the upcoming Joint Meeting of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Chapters of the American Fisheries Society.



Executive Committee Member Jordan Allison authored an article summarizing how the chapter worked with the Society to create its new website. The article was included in Volume 39, Issue 9 of the Fisheries publication.

According to Jordan, “as fisheries biologists, one of our most important responsibilities is to communicate the information we have gained with a myriad of stake holders ranging from the public to other professionals around the world. This component of our job is usually achieved by publishing our work in scientific journals, hosting meetings with stakeholders and presenting at conferences held by a range of professional societies. However, in today’s technologically advanced world where almost any piece of information can be conjured up in a moment’s notice, additional mediums exist to help us share our message.

One of the most frustrating tasks the Pennsylvania chapter has undertaken as of late has been the development of a functioning website that can be updated easily. Prior to this year, the Pennsylvania Chapter’s website could have been described as antiquated at best; to put it into perspective if it was a person, our webpage would have been wearing bell bottoms, platform shoes and the masthead would have been sporting mutton-chop sideburns.”

If you have not yet checked out our new website – please do so!

<http://pa.fisheries.org/> And, download Jordan’s article from Taylor & Francis online:

[Units, Step Right Up: Get Your Free Website](http://pa.fisheries.org/)

- Jordan Allison - Fisheries Vol. 39, Iss. 9, 2014



Wildlife Leadership Academy

Brookies Camp

Brookies Camp Reeled Me In

By Helen Fielding

Continued....

The natural world fills me with a sense of awe. Its beauty, majesty and power can be breathtaking, but the outdoors can also be welcoming and relaxing—especially after a tough day when all one wants to do is get away from the responsibilities of everyday life for a while. It has always saddened me when I see parts of nature being damaged or destroyed, and I’ve often wished I could do something about helping to conserve the Earth. And so, this past spring, when I heard about a conservation field camp for teenagers, I quickly decided to apply to it.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA) is an organization whose purpose is to train and educate future leaders in conservation. It currently has three field schools: PA Bucktails, which focuses on white-tailed deer, PA Brookies, which focuses on brook trout, and PA Drummers, which focuses on ruffed grouse. I attended Brookies, since I have always loved water and streams—catching (and then releasing) crayfish and salamanders was one of my favorite outdoor activities when I was younger. I was not disappointed in the camp!

The location was lovely—we were in a long, forested valley, on both sides of which towered pine-clad mountain slopes, and through the bottom of the valley ran possibly the clearest stream I have ever seen. This brook was spanned by a bridge, which offered an excellent overhead view of the creatures that lived in the water. A water snake resided near the bridge, and sometimes we saw it sunning itself on a pile of old branches in the stream. We frequently sighted fish, too—mostly mudsuckers, dace, brown trout, and rainbow trout. Sometimes, however, we were delighted by the appearance of a brook trout—our state fish, and the primary focus of the field school.

I liked camp from the minute I arrived. Everyone was welcoming, and we wasted no time getting right into what we had come for—learning about brook trout and streams. Our schedule for the week was packed full of activities and events. Experts from such organizations as the Fish and Wildlife Service and Trout Unlimited came to teach us about trout, stream ecosystems, and threats to them; we visited three fish hatcheries in the area (one of which had paddlefish and Atlantic sturgeon) and traveled to a farm to learn about the benefits of no-till farming; we saw an electrofishing demonstration, learned to fly-fish, and identified the habitat quality of the stream by the field school. And there were many other things we were able to do!

One of my favorite activities was Trout Trivia. This was a game we played every day, in which four teams of campers competed to see who could answer the most questions about what we all learned. Every time a team got a question right, they got up, put their fists in the middle of their table, and yelled “Hyah!” as loudly as they could. It was a great and very satisfying way to reinforce facts in our minds, and the competition never got unpleasant! It was encouraging to see how much we learned. (I have to admit, it was also fun to be able to shout at the top of our lungs when we were indoors.)

Every moment of camp was filled with something to do. It was a terrific experience, and I had a *lot* of fun. When my parents came to pick me up at the end of the field school, I felt so much more empowered and confident than I had felt before I came—much more equipped to go out and teach people about nature and why it’s important. The Wildlife Leadership Academy program is a great way for nature-loving teenagers to learn more about the environment—and a great way for them to learn how to become tomorrow’s leaders in the important endeavor of conservation.