



AFA NEWS

Newsletter of the Alabama Fisheries Association

January, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Randell Goodman



The new year has arrived and some of you have already broken the resolutions you made a few days earlier, I know I have. However, resolutions are a good thing because they indicate some self reflection that is probably healthy. Well, what do I know?

Hopefully you are all planning to attend the upcoming AFA annual meeting in Gulf Shores and we can once again renew old acquaintances and make new ones while we exchange new information about our work. Claude Reeves has a great program in place and thanks once again to so many of you for moderating sessions and making presentations. Our meetings would be worthless without this willingness to participate and share information. I know we all will be better informed and motivated in

our jobs by our attendance and participation in the meeting.

I could not end this brief message without the acknowledgment of the passing of one of the Great Ones from our midst. Dr. Don Moss was a great teacher, administrator and leader in the Fisheries Program at Auburn. I know I speak for many of you in saying how much he is missed. (see obituary, p.3)

See you in Gulf Shores soon!

AFA SECRETARY

Rob Andress



Send him your pre-registration by Feb. 6. The form is the last page of this newsletter.

ABOUT THE AFA

The Alabama Fisheries Association (AFA) is an organization of professionals dedicated to the development, conservation, management, and wise utilization of commercial and recreational fisheries in Alabama. The AFA promotes all branches of fishery science and related technology, with emphasis on the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish and other aquatic life. Annual membership fees are \$5.00; three-year memberships are \$15.00. Members are encouraged to purchase three-year memberships. This helps our financial stability and you will avoid any increases in dues that may occur during that time. Dues may be sent to Dave Cline, AFA Treasurer, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, 917 Snow Street, Oxford, AL 36203.

AFA web page – for information about AFA (and recent newsletters) point your web browser to:
www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org

**FROM THE TREASURER (AND
WEBMASTER)**

Dave Cline



The Association is in good financial standing with an overall balance of \$23,301.40. This amount is divided into 3 accounts as shown below.

Assets

AFA Checking	\$2,380.34
AFA Money Market	\$6,887.69
AFA Scholarship CD	\$14,223.37
Total	\$23,301.40

In addition to keeping the books, I keep up with the contact information of the members. If you have changes to your information i.e. address, phone, email etc. please let me know. We will place the current contact information list on the registration table at the meeting. Please check this list to make sure your information is correct, especially your email.

In addition, if you work with students or teachers involved with aquaculture in the schools please check out and promote a new web site that I have developed to serve as a resource for teachers and students using recirculating aquaculture systems. If you have questions, additions or comments about the site please contact me. You can find the site at www.ag.auburn.edu/ras. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting.



FROM THE EDITOR

Rob Angus



Thanks to all of you who contributed to this newsletter. If you were not contacted about submitting something for this newsletter and would like to receive an e-mail “call for articles” for the next newsletter, please notify me (see below).

Got e-mail? If you received this newsletter by U.S. (snail) mail, it means we don’t have a current e-mail address for you (Some of you seem to change internet providers about once a week!). To provide us with your e-mail address, please send Dave Cline or me (raangus@uab.edu) a brief message via e-mail. You will then be placed on our e-mail mailing list and will receive calls for articles, other occasional announcements etc. When the next newsletter comes out, you will be sent an e-mail message with a URL so you can read it on-line. Members with internet access are not sent hard copies of the newsletter unless they request one. This saves AFA copying and postage and has reduced our newsletter production and mailing costs substantially.

**AFA PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PROGRAM
CHAIRMAN
Claude Reeves**



Claude urges all of your to pre-register for the meeting and also to make motel reservations now (see below).

**2004 AFA ANNUAL MEETING
Make Your Reservations NOW**

The annual AFA meeting will be held at **Gulf Coast State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama February 16-18, 2004**. This is Monday – Wednesday, the same as last year. The room rate is \$39/night (plus 11% lodging fee) for single or double rooms. There are a limited number of rooms blocked for this event, so make your reservation early. The phone number for the State Park Hotel is **800-544-4853**. Be sure to mention that you are attending the AFA meeting so they give you the special price. The last page of this newsletter is the registration form.

This years banquet will be held at the "Gulf Island Grill", located in Gulf Shores at Hwy 182 next to Hooters. The menu will be seafood buffet style, including fish, shrimp, seafood pasta, slaw, side dishes, dessert and a drink (non-alcoholic). The owner promises we won't be disappointed as they have really great food.

★ **The meeting schedule is not in this newsletter. It has been posted on-line at:**

<http://www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org/>

STEERING COMMITTEE

The 2003-2004 AFA Steering Committee consists of: Randell Goodman, President (Auburn), Claude Reeves, President Elect (Alabama Cooperative Extension Service), Steve Smith, Past President (formerly ADCNR), Rob Andress, Secretary (ADCNR), Dave Cline, Treasurer (Auburn), Rob Angus, Newsletter Editor (UAB), Kevin Chalk (AL Power), Bernie Kuhajda (U. of AL), Norman Latona (SE Pond Mgt.), Stuart McGregor (Geo. Survey of AL), Doug Powell (AL Power), Wendy Seesock (Auburn), Jeff Slipke (Auburn), Barry Smith (American Sport Fish), Greg Whitis (Auburn), Stan Cook (ADCNR), Steve Rider, and Jim Howard (AL BASS Fed.). We are grateful to these folks for their willingness to help steer our organization in the right direction.

OBITUARY

Dr. Donovan D. Moss (father of Jerry Moss) passed away on Dec. 14, 2003 at DCH hospital in Tuscaloosa following a battle with chronic illness. Early in his career, he was employed with the Alabama Game and Fish Division for 8-years as Asst. Chief of Fisheries and then moved on to an international career in Fisheries and Aquaculture at the University of Kentucky, Tenn. Tech University and Auburn. He completed his career at Auburn University Dept. of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures as Associate Director of the International Center for Aquaculture following 22 years of service. He was a Professor Emeritus at the Fisheries Dept. and taught courses in Pond Construction and Small Impoundments. He was inducted into the Fish Culture Hall of Fame at Spearfish SD in 1995.

**ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science will be held at The University of Montevallo on March 17-20, 2004. Information is available at:

<http://www.alabamaacademyofscience.org/>

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF ALABAMA

Staff of the Biological Unit of the Water Investigations Program of GSA welcomed student aides, J. Brett Smith, a graduate student in biology at the University of Alabama, and Eric D. Mullins, an undergraduate Environmental Science major to the division this past summer. They provided valuable and willing assistance on many field projects, freeing up the older staff and allowing us to get some quality time with computers, maps, and the myriad other duties that suffer during field season. Both have since met the requirements for their respective degrees and are employed by local consultants, Eric with Malcolm Pirnie in Birmingham and Brett with P. E. LaMoreaux and Associates in Tuscaloosa.

Numerous field projects were recently completed. Projects completed for the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries include sonic tracking for blue suckers and paddlefish in the Alabama River and mussel surveying in the primary

channel of the Tombigbee River and tailwater reaches of Coosa River mainstem dams (Logan Martin this past summer). Also completed was the 12th year of monitoring water quality and the cave shrimp population in Bobcat Cave for U.S. Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. The first phase of the hopeful recovery of mussels in Bear Creek in the Tennessee River drainage was accomplished with a threat analysis of the mussel fauna in Bear Creek completed for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with assistance from TVA. An inventory of aquatic species in the Mobile Delta was initiated for State Lands Division and fish bioassessment of Tennessee Valley streams for TVA continued.

GSA personnel published several manuscripts dealing with natural resource issues in recent years. You may visit the GSA webpage (www.gsa.state.al.us) for lists of publications, including new, old, and out-of-print titles and those available through the reprint series for non-GSA publications. Other manuscripts are in various stages of the publication process. These include water quality and bioassessment studies in Weeks Bay watershed and Locust Fork watersheds (both GSA) and mussels in upper Tombigbee River tributaries (GSA) and in the Choctawhatchee/Pea river basin (Bulletin Alabama Museum of Natural History). The mussel surveys were completed in cooperation with U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey personnel, respectively.

UAB

Rob Angus (lucky raffle winner) and Ken Marion (lucky fishing buddy) enjoyed a free fishing trip on Dream Lake (near Livingston) last October. They didn't land any lunkers, but had a great time catching ~70 robust bass, most in the 2-3 lb size class. The largest was just under 4 lbs. It was extremely educational to experience first hand the results of intense management for bass production – automatic feeders, trees and aerators all over the place. It is not a large reservoir (77 acres) and is fished 5 days a week (4 anglers/day), yet very few of the bass we caught had hook wounds. The population must be enormous, but shows no evidence of bass crowding. We will be back!



ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

Personnel Changes – **Steve Smith** resigned as the District II Fisheries Biologist last June to pursue a business career as a financial consultant and moved to north Georgia with his wife. Biologist **Rob Address** accepted a lateral move and transferred to Steve's old position at Eastaboga. **Steve Rider** is the new Non-game Coordinator. He previously held the District-IV Fisheries Biologist position in Montgomery. This position is based in Montgomery and has statewide responsibilities. His new duties include: coordination of the Alabama sturgeon project, development of an aquatic nuisance species plan, threatened and endangered species work (i.e., Section 6 and SWG projects...), development of a stream and riverine sampling program, review of scientific collector and special request permits, habitat renovation, hydropower re-licensing issues, and other non-game fish topics as they develop. **Chris Greene** originally from District I (Decatur) was promoted to the District Supervisors position in Montgomery after **Jim McHugh** accepted a new position with our Division as Wildlife Diversity Coordinator. **Damon Abernethy** from SC is the new District Fisheries Biologist in District 4 (Montgomery) and **Phil Ekema** accepted the District Biologist position in Decatur after leaving his old job at Carbon Hill Hatchery.

Doug Darr (still at his same old job) reminds you that news releases relative to freshwater fishing and aquatic resources in Alabama are available at www.conservation.alabama.gov/agfd/fish/nr/index.html.

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Aquatic Assessment Unit**

Reservoir Water Quality Monitoring (RWQM)
Program

Monthly (April-October) mainstem reservoir and tributary embayment sampling has been completed for the following projects: *Tributary Embayment Water Quality Assessment of the Tennessee River Basin*; *Water Quality Assessment of Alabama Reservoirs for Nutrient Criteria and Total Maximum Daily Load Development*; and, *Nutrient Criteria Compliance Monitoring of Alabama Reservoirs*. A total of 84 stations were monitored for these projects with vertical profiles of in situ variables conducted at meter intervals and composite samples collected for nutrient and chlorophyll a analyses. Compilation of data collected for these projects has been completed and analysis of the data initiated.

Review of the final reports for the Intensive Water Quality Survey of the Chattahoochee and Conecuh River Reservoirs, Intensive Water Quality Survey of Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Alabama River Reservoirs, and Intensive Water Quality Survey of the Tombigbee and Escatawpa River Reservoirs continues. Completion of these final reports are scheduled for early 2004.

The draft report for the Intensive Water Quality Survey of the Warrior River Reservoir is near completion. Completion of the final report is scheduled for February 2004.

Review of the draft report for the nutrient criteria compliance monitoring of Weiss, Harris, and Martin Reservoirs continues. Completion of the 2003 final report is scheduled for January 2004.

The projects *Southeast Alabama Rivers and Reservoirs Water Quality Assessment* and *Water Quality Assessment of Alabama Reservoirs for Nutrient Criteria and Total Maximum Daily Load Development* will be initiated during March 2004 with the recon of sampling sites. Monthly sampling, April-October, will be conducted at approximately 70 river and reservoir sites for these projects.

For further information on the RWQM Program contact Fred Leslie at (334) 260-2748 or FAL@adem.state.al.us

Fish Tissue Monitoring Program (FTMP)

FY04 sample collection and processing has been completed. A total of 463 fish from 45 stations were collected and processed. Of the 45 stations, 41 were collected for the FTMP, 1 for Land Division/ADEM, and 3 for the USEPA National Fish Tissue Study. Sampling began the first week in October and was completed the second week in December. The staff are currently aging fish and entering laboratory analysis data as it is received.

For further information on the Fish Tissue Monitoring Program contact Michael Len at mrlen@adem.state.al.us or (334) 260-2787.

Point / Nonpoint Source Assessment Programs

2003 Basinwide NPS Assessment: Seventy-three Tennessee basin NPS screening stations in 30 sub-watersheds were selected for sampling. Sampling, to include water quality samples, a macroinvertebrate assessment, and a fish community survey on selected stations, began in May 2003, but due to heavy precipitation, was delayed for three weeks. Sampling was reinitiated in June 2003, with water quality and macroinvertebrate assessments conducted at all stations. Macroinvertebrate collections are currently being processed. Preliminary evaluation of the macroinvertebrate data produced a list of 60 stations for fish community surveys.

Fifty-four fish community surveys were completed. Field parameters were collected during fish community surveys. All are entered in the database and QA'd.

In addition, two NPS intensive surveys were conducted in the Tennessee basin this summer; the Sand Mountain area, and the Big Nance Creek sub-watershed. These are being conducted in an effort to demonstrate an improvement in water quality of streams that have had best management practices implemented in their sub-watersheds. Twenty-one stations in five sub-watersheds were sampled during

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April, June, August and October 2003 and included water quality samples, a macroinvertebrate assessment, and on most, a fish community survey. All intensive water quality sampling events, macroinvertebrate collections, and fish community surveys have been completed. All data has been entered and QA'd.

Reporting: The final report of the 2001 Escatawpa, Tombigbee, and Mobile NPS Screening Assessment was completed. The report and appendices are available for distribution and downloading from the Department's website (<http://www.adem.state.al.us>). The 2002 NPS Basin wide Screening Assessment of the Black Warrior and Cahaba River Report is currently being drafted.

For further information on these projects contact Lisa Houston at esh@adem.state.al.us or (334)260-2752.

Alabama Monitoring and Assessment Program (ALAMAP)

The 2003 ALAMAP sampling season is complete. Sixty stations were sampled. All data has been entered and QA'd. TKN was added as a new parameter for FY '03 to assist Water Division in establishing nutrient criteria for streams. Ortho-phosphorus was added in 2002. A summary report for the five-year period is in preparation.

For more information on this project contact Lee Davis at MLD@adem.state.al.us or (334)260-2755.

Ambient Monitoring

Staff conducted 13 sampling events at 9 Ambient Monitoring Stations during 1st Quarter of FY04.

Water samples for both chemical analyses and field parameter measurements were collected. Received chemical analytical results and all field parameter data have been entered into the Montgomery Ambient Monitoring Database. Required flow data is being requested from USGS. Efforts continue to merge all Ambient Monitoring data into the Master database on the file server.

For more information on this project contact Hugh Cox at HEC@adem.state.al.us or (334)260-2753.



ALABAMA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION
 TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING February 16 – 18, 2004
 GULF SHORES STATE PARK

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Work phone: _____

FAX : _____ E-mail address: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip +4: _____

Pre-Registration Fee: Regular \$55.00 (Will be \$65 at the door.)
 Students/Retirees \$25.00 \$ _____

Registration includes a banquet ticket!

Membership: 1 year \$5.00
 3 years \$15.00 \$ _____

Raffle tickets (1 - 9 @ \$1 each, 15 for \$10, 30 for \$20) .. \$ _____

Optional donation to the AFA scholarship fund (\$5 suggested)..... \$ _____

T-SHIRTS: GIVE NUMBER AND SIZE BELOW *

Tee-shirts: @ \$10.00 each x _____ .. \$ _____

Long-sleeve Tee-shirts: @ \$13.00 each x _____ .. \$ _____

Sweatshirts: @\$15.00 each x _____ .. \$ _____

AFA hats: @ \$9.00 each x _____ .. \$ _____

*** Note: Guarantees on number and sizes of shirts as supplies last!**

TOTAL: \$ _____

★ RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX BY FEBRUARY 6 ★

Send to:

Rob Andress, Eastaboga State Fish Hatchery, P.O. Box 158, Eastaboga, Alabama 36260
 FAX: (256) 831-2686 PHONE: (256) 831-6860.

Make checks payable to: Alabama Fisheries Association or AFA. Additional raffle and banquet tickets will be available at the door. **Pre-registration does not require pre-payment.**