



AFA NEWS

Newsletter of the Alabama Fisheries Association

August, 2003

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Randell Goodman



I hope all of you are having a great year in your work managing /measuring and playing in Alabama's most valuable resource, WATER!! We certainly have had plenty of it this year with record rainfall all over the state. Not complaining by any means but after the droughts of the last few years this has been a most welcome relief. As of this date, the water storage reservoirs at the Auburn University Fisheries Unit are still full!

Yesterday I met with our Vice-President (Program chair), Claude Reeves, and he is well on his way planning the next annual meeting, which will be held at the Gulf Coast State Park in Gulf Shores, February 16-18, 2004. As always, we encourage you to participate by presenting papers, moderating sessions and by being present. If you have something you want to report on and there doesn't seem to be a session

it fits in, please submit it anyway. Claude and I discussed having a session named "Contributed Papers" for just such a contingency. On a related subject, I would like to ask any of you to recommend a keynote speaker for our meeting that you feel would be of interest to the organization. Many of you work in areas where significant issues are being raised and debated and I think it is healthy to have "key players" visit with us to keep us informed of current topics with serious implications. So, if you have some topic or someone you think would be able and willing to do this please send the information to Claude or me.

Speaking of serious matters, one of concern to this organization is the restricted travel policy that has been imposed on our colleagues from the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. This year's annual meeting is likely to have very few of them in attendance. I think all of us can understand the devastating impact this can have on our organization and if others that work with state or federal agencies come under the same restrictions it will be virtually impossible for us to continue. Maybe, between now and February this policy will be eliminated or modified so many of them can attend.

There is great value to us and our constituents in our annual exchange of information, the

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**

opportunity for students and recent graduates to meet and get acquainted with the more experienced individuals and the open discussion of current and future issues affecting the water, fish and environment of this state. It is my hope we can continue to have this opportunity and that we can actually grow in numbers and quality of program. There are numerous other private organizations with similar interests and goals that we should be inviting to attend and participate. It is my belief that a larger representation of a cross-section of professionals provides a balanced and most informative annual meeting.

If you have suggestions for the upcoming annual meeting or other matters that need to be brought before the general membership of the Alabama Fisheries Association please let me know. Have a good summer/fall and I'll see you in Gulf Shores.

FROM THE TREASURER

David Cline



Greetings all. I trust that everyone is having an outstanding summer season. Just so you all know, the Association is in good financial standing. We have a total of \$23,163.80 in the bank. These funds are divided between three accounts.

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Scholarship CD | \$14,144 |
| Checking | \$2,437 |
| Money Market | \$6,682 |

The steering committee has decided that the registration fees for the 2004 annual meeting will be the same as the 2003 meeting (what a deal). Registration will be \$55 if you pre-register or \$65 at the door and \$25 for students and retirees. This fee will also cover the banquet and social. We are looking for ideas and suggestions related to scholarship activities. If there is interest an activity i.e. fishing/golf will be planned prior to

the meeting on Monday morning. Please let any of the officers know if you are interested in such an activity. In addition, if anyone has news or information for our web page please let me know.

FROM THE EDITOR

Rob Angus

Thanks to all of you who contributed this time. If you were not contacted about submitting something for this newsletter and would like to receive a "call for articles" (via e-mail) for the next newsletter, please notify me: Rob Angus, Biology Department, UAB, Birmingham, AL 35294-1170. 205-934-4799 or raangus@uab.edu.

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. To provide us with your e-mail address, please send me 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 a dollar or more per member and has reduced our newsletter production and mailing costs substantially.

AFA SCHOLARSHIP

The AFA offers an annual scholarship (\$500) to a deserving graduate student who is currently enrolled in an Alabama university and has an approved research proposal related to fisheries science. The scholarship award can be used in any way to support the recipient's graduate education. The scholarship fund received an excellent initial boost from the Alabama Power Foundation which provided a generous gift of \$10,000.

The **application deadline is 1 November 2003** and the application procedure can be found on the AFA web page (<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/afa>). For additional information, contact David Bayne (334) 844-9321 dbayne@acesag.auburn.edu.

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 (ADCNR), Rob Andress, Secretary (Auburn), 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.

2004 AFA ANNUAL MEETING

The annual AFA meeting will be held at **Gulf Coast State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama February 16-18, 2004.**

The room rate will be \$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 **800-544-5253**.

The program will follow the usual format with meetings beginning at 1:00pm on Monday Feb. 16th, a reception that evening, meetings Tuesday and a banquet that evening. The meeting will conclude with sessions Wednesday morning and the final business meeting.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Claude Reeves



The program chairman for this year's meeting is our president-elect, Claude Reeves (Alabama Cooperative Extension Service) 334-693-2957 creeves@acesag.auburn.edu. Session topics, and their moderators, are as follows:

Fish Health

Jeff Terhune 334-844-9213
Auburn Dept. Fisheries
215 Swingle Hall
Auburn, AL 36849-5419
jsterhune@auburn.edu

Watershed/Riverine Topics

Stuart McGregor 205-349-2852
Geological Survey of Alabama
P.O. Box 869999
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-6999
smcgregor@gsa.state.al.us

Marine & Coastal Topics

P.J. Waters 251-438-5690
AUMERC
4170 Commanders Ave
Mobile, AL 36615-1413
pjwaters@hotmail.com

Aquaculture

Bill Daniels 334-844-9123
Auburn Dept. Fisheries
203 Swingle Hall
Auburn, AL 36849-5419
danielwh@acesag.auburn.edu

Aquatic Education

Hugh Hammer 256-549-8345
Gadsden State Community College
PO Box 227
Gadsden, AL 35903-0227
hhammer@gadsdenst.cc.al.us

Reservoirs

Doug Powell 205-664-6189
Alabama Power Co.
P. O. Box 2641 GSC #8
Birmingham, AL 35291
dhpowell@southernco.com

Continued, next page...

Aquatic Plants

Joe Jernigan 334-626-5153
AL Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
P.O. Box 7245
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
jjernigan@dcnr.state.al.us

Contributed Papers

Bernie Kuhajda 205-348-1822
Biological Sciences Department
University of Alabama
Box 870344
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0344
bkuhajda@bama.ua.edu

If you would like to make a presentation, please fill in the form on the last page of this newsletter and send it to the appropriate session moderator. You are advised to get your form in soon (before the end of October) so you won't find that the session has already been filled. The meeting schedule will be included in the winter newsletter.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

TVA has completed spring sportfish surveys at 31 reservoirs in the Tennessee River drainage. Emphasis is on black bass populations. Reports are available from Donny Lowery, 256-386-2729 drlowery@tva.gov.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures

Restoration of Parkerson Mill Creek on the Auburn University Campus Using Natural Channel Design

The open-channel portions of Parkerson Mill Creek (PMC) on the Auburn University (AU) campus are experiencing major erosion of banks in many reaches. In other reaches invasive plants such as kudzu and privet hedge cover the riparian areas. During 2003 a committee appointed by the President of Auburn University studied the feasibility of restoring these open-channel reaches and creating natural open space along the stream corridors, complete with walking and biking trails. This committee consists of AU

faculty, state agency personnel and the city of Auburn environmental engineer.

The AU Campus Master Plan approved by the AU Board of Trustees (BOT) in 2002 calls for just such preservation of the stream corridors on campus. Last winter the AU committee hired an engineering firm to evaluate the reaches for their restoration potential and to make cost-based recommendations on stream restoration strategies, vegetated buffer enhancement, greenway installations and stormwater management to improve the quality, function and aesthetics of these streams.

The study area on the AU campus includes a little over 10,000 linear feet of perennial stream channels, surrounding vegetated buffers, and stormwater outfalls. The stream is within the Piedmont physiographic province in the Lower Tallapoosa watershed. The feasibility study divided the perennial streams into 10 reaches recommended for restoration. This would restore reaches from headwater areas on campus to the southern portion of the campus at the Shug Jordan Parkway. Total costs for restoring all reaches and installing stormwater management structures was estimated at over 1.2 million dollars. So far the PMC committee has commitments from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) to provide funding that will enable AU to restore a portion of Parkerson Mill Creek. Additional funding has been obtained in a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to go with that from ADCNR, so that between one and three reaches can be completely restored. The number of linear feet may vary slightly because detailed design plans have not yet been developed. The benefits will consist of a natural meandering channel with improved stream habitat (riffle/pool sequences) and a flood plain that reduces bank erosion. New vegetation planted along the riparian corridors will also reduce in-channel erosion and improve the aesthetic appearance of the stream.

The approach will use natural channel design features espoused by Dave Rosgen (Rosgen 1996). Natural stream functions in the PMC watershed have been altered by historic changes

in land uses, channel straightening and relocation, piping, floodplain filling, streambank armoring, stormwater discharges and loss of riparian vegetation. The resulting stream channels are mostly incised down to bedrock with minimal active floodplains and narrow vegetated riparian corridors. Observed impacts on many of the reaches include poor aquatic habitat, sediment deposition, eroding streambanks, invasive plant species along streambanks and degraded water quality. This has resulted in impaired stream stability in Parkerson Mill Creek. Rosgen (1996) defines stream stability as the ability of the channel to carry the water and sediment delivered by its watershed, such that over time it maintains its dimensions, pattern and profile while neither aggrading nor degrading. Three major causes of stream channel instability that will be addressed through the PMC restoration project are: (1) channel incision, resulting in loss of functional floodplain; (2) channel straightening, resulting in poor riffle/pool sequence; and (3) poor riparian vegetation condition, resulting in streambank erosion and poor habitat.

The first step will consist of hiring an engineering firm for the design phase of the project. Once the AU Board of Trustees has approved the design plans, a construction firm will be employed to complete the work. Grant funds from the ADCNR and US EPA will be sufficient to restore a portion (about 900 feet) of Parkerson Mill Creek. Additional extramural funding will be sought to continue this process until all open channel reaches have been restored and greenways constructed along the stream. All funds for design and construction will be handled through the AU Facilities Division.

Literature Cited: Rosgen, D. 1996. Applied River Morphology. Wildland Hydrology, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Submitted by Cliff Webber, Chair
Parkerson Mill Stream Restoration Committee
334-844-9124 ewebber@acesag.auburn.edu

Marine Environmental Research Consortium

The Auburn University Shellfish Lab on Dauphin Island is up and running. Despite unfavorable

water quality conditions in Mobile Bay this spring and summer, Scott Rikard (Lab manager) produced significant amounts of oyster larvae on the first attempt. Approximately a million larvae were set on oyster shell and microcultch. The resulting oyster spat set on whole shell has gone out to volunteers in the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Oyster Gardening Program. After reaching 2 inches they'll be put on an unproductive reef as part of an oyster reef restoration effort. Spat set on microcultch is being grown in the Lab to test production capabilities and as stock for future projects. A Sea Grant funded project at the Lab is looking at the effects on larvae and spat produced from oysters exposed to heavy metals while they were juveniles.

Submitted by Rick Wallace 251-438-5690
rwallace@acesag.auburn.edu

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY Renew Our Rivers Fall Cleanups

Alabama Power Company personnel and equipment will be helping with the following fall cleanup events on area lakes. If you would like to participate, contact the person indicated.

Black Warrior River (Bankhead Reservoir) in cooperation with the Black Warrior Clean Water Partnership and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to be held September 20, 2003. The APCo barges will be utilized September 16, 17, and 18 to remove large items. The barges will be utilized on September 20 for general clean-up activities. Contact Kellie Johnston (205) 251-8139 for further details on the September 20 general cleanup.

Smith Lake in cooperation with the Smith lake Environmental Preservation Committee (SLEPC) to be held on September 25, 26, and 27, 2003. APCo barges utilized all three days. Contact Debbie Berry (205) 823-0015 for further details on the three-day cleanup.

Smith Lake in cooperation with the Smith Lake Civic Association (SLCA) to be held on October 6, 7, and 8, 2003. APCo barges to be utilized all three days. Contact Jim Sanders (205) 221-7446 for further details on the three day clean-up.

Tallapoosa River (Harris Reservoir) in cooperation with Lake Wedowee Property Owners to be held on September 29- October 4, 2003. APCo barges utilized on September 29-October 1 (three days) and October 4 (main clean-up). Contact Bob May (256) 357-2656 for further details on the cleanup.

Coosa River (Mitchell Reservoir) in cooperation with the Lake Mitchell HOBO to be held November 8, 2003. APCo barges to be utilized on November 8 for general clean-up activities. Contact George Jackins (205) 978-8338 for further details on the cleanup.

Submitted by Doug Powell 205-664-6189 or dhpowell@southernco.com.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

State Wildlife Grants (SWG) are a new funding source from Congress to the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries intended to identify and focus management on “species in greatest need of conservation.” SWG refers to wildlife in the broadest sense, to include fish and aquatic invertebrates, such as mussels and snails. As part of these appropriations, Congress has directed how SWG funds are to be spent. SWG funds may not be used to supplement existing programs. Congress intends that SWG funds be used to manage and conserve declining species and avoid their potential listing under the Endangered Species Act.

A major requirement of SWG funding is that each state develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP). This plan must be approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid prior to October 1, 2005. The CWCP must include information on the distribution and abundance of low and declining species of wildlife, descriptions of the locations and condition of key habitats and community types, descriptions of problems that might adversely affect these species or habitats, descriptions of conservation actions necessary to conserve these species and their habitats, and proposed monitoring plans.

Initial efforts must focus on the completion of the CWCP. Following approval of this document, SWG funds can then be directed toward priority conservation actions identified in the CWCP. Completion of the CWCP and the implementation of conservation actions will require the Division to enter into many creative partnerships with other agencies and conservation organizations. The position of Wildlife Diversity Coordinator has been created to work full-time on this program and will be filled by Jim McHugh (District IV Fisheries Supervisor).

The effort to pass SWG in Congress was led by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The Alabama appropriation is more than \$3 million for the Fiscal Years 2002-2004, combined. However, it is the hope of the International that funding will grow substantially as Congress comes to recognize the pressing needs of a broad array of fish and wildlife species. Please contact Jim McHugh (334-242-3874 or jmchugh@dcnr.state.al.us) if you have any questions or comments regarding this program.



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CALL FOR PAPERS

**Alabama Fisheries Association
Annual Meeting
February 16 - 18, 2004
Gulf Shores, AL**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Title of Paper: _____

Brief Summary: _____

Please submit your title to the appropriate session moderator (see page 2) as soon as possible, but no later than the end of October. Titles and abstracts should be sent to Rob Andress, ALCFWRU, 103 Swingle Hall, Auburn, AL 36849 by Dec. 1 for inclusion in the printed program.