the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

http://www.sdafs.org/flafs

January, 2006

President's Message:

Got a minute?

So much can be accomplished in just a minute in this digital age. If I need to read a journal article I can often find and download it from the internet in less than a minute. Or if I want to contact our jet-setting Past-President, Mike Allen, in Australia, then I can send him a quick email at any time of the day and he gets right back to me (once he wakes up, down under). And take for instance registering for the next Florida Chapter meeting (Feb. 21-23, 2006); I used the pre-registration form from our last newsletter (http://www.sdafs.org/flafs/news/oct05NL.PDF) and it only took a minute to complete!

According to Kenneth Blanchard and Spencer Johnson, co-authors of "The One Minute Manager", even supervising people can take only a minute. Their book is written as an allegory, focusing on the nature of communication between a supervisor and his subordinates. Three themes emerge: 1) agreement on an explicit list of goals, 2) monitoring progress towards these goals, and 3) providing sincere feedback at regular intervals. Common sense, right? Well, at over 10 million copies sold, this book's message has become more than just common.

This phenomenally popular book is very similar to an earlier allegorical story called "MacGregor" by Arthur Carlisle (web.sau.edu/RichardsRandyL/Leadership_Readings_MacGregor.htm). In fact, a case has been made that more than 40% of "The One Minute Manager" was plagiarized from "MacGregor" (www.opinionjournal.com/taste?id=95000681). In a supremely ironical twist, "MacGregor" stands apart from its successor in how it emphasizes the importance of crediting others for their ideas.

The allegorical MacGregor is an iconoclastic manager, who disdains the 'participative' approach to decision making. Because MacGregor lives in a capitalistic world with unambiguous measures of productivity, I had to wonder how well his story translates to my world of competing stakeholders – each with different objectives? Can we apply the lessons of these influential stories to make ourselves into "One Minute Fishery Managers"? I'll give it a try by praising my fellow officers and committee leaders.

Chuck Cichra for stepping up to the plate as President-Elect while continuing to oversee the Rottmann and student travel awards; I am very much looking forward to our 2006 symposium and annual meeting next month.

Eric Nagid for making last year's meeting run smoothly – at a new venue – and for shouldering the Secretary-Treasurer position for a second year.

Past-President Mike Allen for lining up a strong list of officer candidates (see p. 10-11 for their biographies).

Getting in Touch

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Mark Rogers for his part in establishing the Student Subunit and his service as its first President.

Bob Wattendorf and Jackie Debicella for maintaining the value of our website and newsletter. It is particularly nice to see the addition of the student subunit to our website and the steady stream of student articles in our newsletter.

Special kudos to outgoing rafflemaster Tom Maher; Tom, you kept the fun and the funds alive. Thanks to Bridget Tiffany and Allan Collins for agreeing to keep the raffle going; certainly good news to those that enjoy the chum and prizes and want to support student travel.

It is a pleasure to work with you all. See you in Ocala!

Rich McBride, President FL AFS

Upcoming Events

Jan 26-27: Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment, Seattle Washington.

Feb 7-9: First International Symposium, on Mangroves as Fish Habitat, Miami, FL

Feb 8-12: 2006 Southern Division American Fisheries Society Spring Meeting: Water Allocation for Fisheries, San Antonio, Texas.

February 21-23: 26th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Ocala 4H-Camp, Ocala, Florida.

Feb 26-28: 28th Southeastern Recreation Research Conference, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Apr 19-22: Workshop on Computational Science for Natural Resource Managers, Tennessee.

Check out our Parent Society's calendar at http://www.fisheries.org/Calendar.shtml for other events not listed here!

Feature Article

The effects of hurricanes on nekton communities in the St. Lucie estuary

Theodore S. Switzer, Brent L. Winner, James A. Whittington, Nicole M. Dunham and Matt Thomas
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Estuaries frequently experience a variety of aperiodic natural and anthropogenic disturbances, including tropical storms. These disturbances often result in relatively rapid changes to environmental conditions as well as species abundances within affected systems. Tropical storms have the potential to influence coastal fauna over a wide range of temporal and spatial scales, although the response of a given system to such disturbances may vary substantially. Immediately following a tropical storm, the fauna frequently experience localized mortalities in association with high nutrient loadings and subsequent periods of hypoxia. Longer-term storm effects generally include widespread alterations in the distribution, abundance, and movement of mobile nekton. After such disturbances, recovery to prehurricane abundances and environmental conditions frequently occurring in a matter of months.

Despite recent increases in the frequency and intensity of Atlantic tropical storms (Goldenberg et al. 2001), relatively little is known regarding the influence that hurricanes may have on estuarine communities in Florida, where historically more tropical storms have made landfall than any other state (www.nhc.noaa.gov). Although informative, the few historical studies that have been published on the effects of hurricanes on Florida's estuaries have generally lacked the temporal resolution to adequately examine the disturbance and recovery of estuarine systems in response to tropical storms (Breder 1962; Tabb and Jones 1962; Bortone 1976). Because recent increases in Atlantic hurricane frequency and intensity are likely to persist over the next several decades, it is critical to determine the likely effects that increased tropical storm activity may have on estuarine and coastal resources throughout Florida. The 2004 hurricane season, during which one tropical storm (Bonnie) and four hurricanes (Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne) made landfall in Florida, has provided scientists with a unique opportunity to examine the nearly simultaneous effects of a series of tropical storms on estuarine communities throughout the state. Most of these storms affected estuaries where long-term monitoring programs were already in place, providing scientists with a unique opportunity to differentiate community-level effects that are directly attributable to tropical storms from those that are related to other factors (Adams 2001).

In September 2004, two hurricanes (Frances and Jeanne) made landfall 20 days apart in the St. Lucie estuary (Figure 1), where the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWC – FWRI) has been conducting monthly fisheries-independent monitoring of nekton since April 1998. Sampling was initiated in response to fish-health concerns after large regulatory discharges were made from Lake Okeechobee in early 1998. Sampling was conducted using a 183-m center-bag haul seine (37.5-mm stretched-nylon mesh) that primarily targeted subadult and adult fishes and large macroinvertebrates in shallow waters (< 2.5 m) along shorelines. Monthly sampling effort (n = 12) was subdivided into four zones to facilitate our making spatial comparisons of community structure: the North Fork (NF; n = 2), South Fork (SF; n = 2), lower St. Lucie (LSL; n = 4), and southern Indian River Lagoon (SIRL; n = 4). All individuals collected were identified to the lowest practical taxon and enumerated. Additionally, freshwater discharge data were obtained from several South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) flow monitoring sites to gauge freshwater discharge into the NF and SF after the two hurricanes. Data from April 1998 through August 2005 were examined to identify community-level disturbance and recovery in response to the passages of hurricanes Frances and Jeanne.

Rates of freshwater discharge into the St. Lucie estuary immediately after hurricanes Frances and Jeanne were among the highest recorded in the past 9 years. In the NF, a peak discharge of 117 $m^3 s^{-1}$ occurred 12 days after Frances, and a peak discharge of 162 $m^3 s^{-1}$ occurred 8 days after Jeanne. Freshwater discharges in the North Fork returned to prehurricane levels three weeks after hurricane Jeanne. In the SF, only a small peak in freshwater discharge occurred after Frances, but a maximum discharge of 141 $m^3 s^{-1}$ occurred 17 days after Jeanne. Freshwater discharge into the SF did not return to prehurricane levels until November 2004. Although substantial, the hurricane-related discharges into the SF did not approach either the magnitude or duration of the regulatory discharges from Lake Okeechobee in early 1998 (212 $m^3 s^{-1}$).

Although there were no reports to the FWC – FWRI of nekton mortality in the St. Lucie estuary in association with the passage of hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, nekton abundances throughout much of the estuary differed substantially from prehurricane abundances as well as abundances in previous years. These differences were due primarily to a substantial increase in the abundance of freshwater and oligohaline fishes in the NF and LSL as well as a concomitant reduction in the abundances of freshwater-intolerant fishes throughout the estuary. In both the NF and LSL, more freshwater and oligohaline fishes were collected after the hurricanes than were collected

during six years of prior sampling, including *Dorosoma* spp. (principally *D. cepedianum*), *Lepomis* spp. (principally *L. macrochirus*), and *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*. Abundances of several fishes declined sharply in the NF after the hurricanes, including *Mugil cephalus*, *M. curema*, and *Archosargus probatocephalus*. Hurricane effects were not limited to the NF; abundances of *Lagodon rhomboides* and *Orthopristis chrysoptera* were substantially lower in the SIRL immediately after the hurricanes. Despite these observed disturbances, nekton within the St. Lucie estuary were resilient, and recovered to normal abundances by early 2005.

Although we have documented the short-term resilience of estuarine communities following hurricane-related disturbances, additional research is required to examine the implications of increased perturbation frequency on estuarine-dependent nekton. Historically, freshwater discharges of the magnitude experienced following the 2004 hurricane season have been rare, occurring only twice within the St. Lucie estuary in seven years prior to hurricane Jeanne. In the year following hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, two freshwater discharges exceeding 140 $m^3 s^{-1}$ have been documented, and additional regulated discharges have occurred during the 2005 hurricane season. Although not directly linked to a specific hurricane event, these regulated discharges have the potential to disturb community structure within the St. Lucie estuary in much the same way that hurricane-related discharges can. With increased hurricane activity expected to continue for the foreseeable future (Goldenberg et al. 2001), it is likely that over the coming decades estuarine communities will experience increased rates of disturbance that have the potential to affect growth, reproduction, survival, and other key life-history parameters of nekton. It is therefore critical that scientists continue to monitor the long-term implications of hurricane-related disturbances on estuarine nekton.

We gratefully acknowledge FWC personnel and volunteers who have assisted with data collection and processing throughout the duration of this study. We are grateful to the SFWMD for providing freshwater discharge data. This project was supported in part by proceeds from state of Florida saltwater recreational fishing licenses and by funding from the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aid for Sportfish Restoration Project Number F-43. *Ted Switzer can be reached via email at ted.switzer@myfwc.com.*

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Adams, A. 2001. Effects of a hurricane on two assemblages of coral reef fishes: multiple-year analysis reverses a false 'snapshot' interpretation. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 69:341-356.

Bortone, S. A. 1976. Effects of a hurricane on the fish fauna at Destin, Florida. *Florida Scientist* 39:245-248.

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Goldenberg, S. B., C. W. Landsea, A. M. Mestas-Nunez and W. M. Gray. 2001. The recent increase in Atlantic hurricane activity: causes and implications. *Science* 293:474-479.

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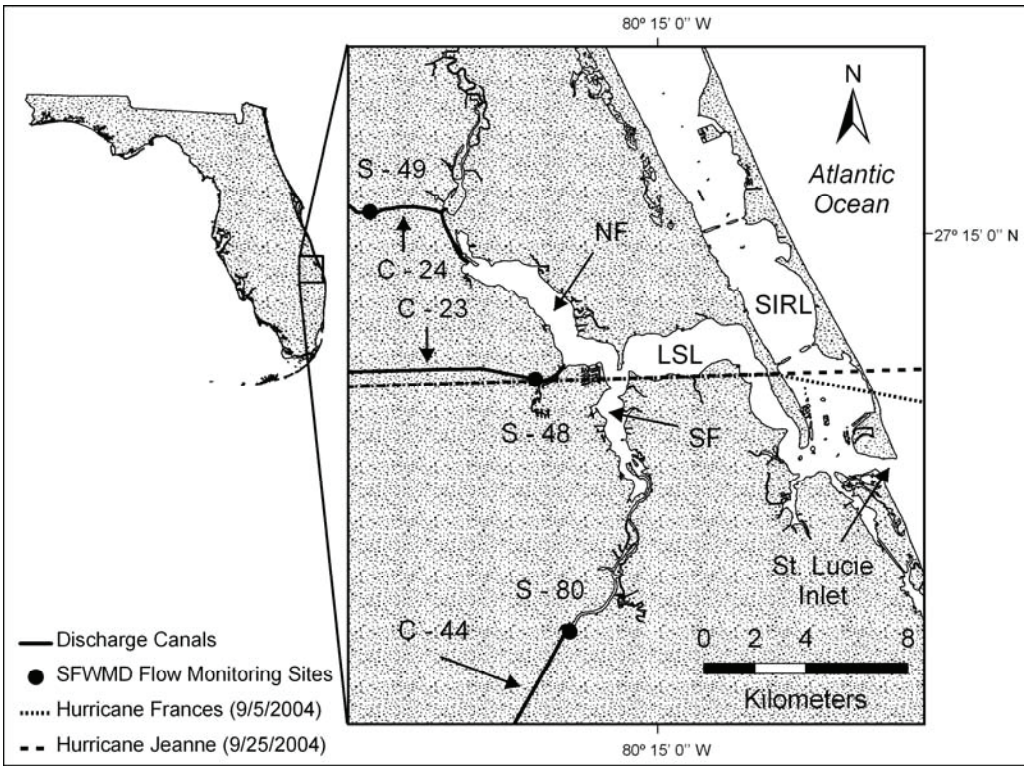

Figure 1. The St. Lucie estuary, southeastern Florida. Fisheries-independent monitoring effort was stratified into four separate zones: North Fork (NF), South Fork (SF), lower St. Lucie (LSL), and the southern Indian River Lagoon (SIRL). Closed circles represent SFWMD flow-monitoring sites along major flood-control canals. The dotted and dashed lines represent the tracks of hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, respectively.

Announcements

New AFS Book Releases
Benthic Habitats and Effects of Fishing: Linking Geology, Biology, Socioeconomics, and Management in Fisheries—An Introduction. James P. Thomas and Peter W. Barne.

Historical Changes in Large River Fish Assemblages of the Americas. John N. Rinne, Robert M. Hughes, and Bob Calamusso, editors.

Common and Scientific Names of Aquatic Invertebrates from the United States and Canada: Crustaceans. Patsy A. McLaughlin, David K. Camp, et al., contributors.

Interested in contributing something to the Shell-Cracker? Email Jackie Debicella at *jmdebicella@mactec.com* with any articles or information that you would like to be included in the next issue. The deadline for the next issue is March 30th, 2006, so start fishing...

SNOOK V Symposium and Workshop

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWC/FWRI) and co-hosts will conduct a symposium and workshop, SNOOK V, to discuss the biology, status, and management of common snook in Florida. This two day event is designed to bring scientists, managers, and the angling public together for the benefit of Florida's premier gamefish. This symposium will focus on the 2005 Snook Stock Assessment and will serve as the basis for future research and management goals.

The organizing committee is asking the Florida Chapter of The American Fisheries Society to join The International Gamefish Association and Mote Laboratory to become a co-host of this meeting by financially supporting the symposium. The Chapter will gain professional status by becoming a partner in this endeavor exemplified by its gracious endowment to the snook symposium of 1993. FWRI is always grateful for the opportunity to support and partner with the FL AFS in the common goal to protect and conserve Florida's valuable fisheries resources.

Southern Division AFS
Reservoir Committee

The Southern Division American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee is proud to announce the upcoming

4th International Reservoir Symposium
June 6-9, 2007
Atlanta, Georgia

The theme of this symposium is "Balancing Fisheries Management and Water Uses for Impounded River Systems" and will consist of invited and contributed papers from individuals all across the country. Speakers will present on a broad range of issues, from case studies to new technologies to changes in management philosophy. Proposed topics include:

- Balancing Fisheries Issues with Basin-wide Water Uses
- Aquatic Habitat
- Human Dimensions
- Catch and Release and Use of Regulations
- Stocking Issues
- Assessment and Analysis

If you have other topics or specific projects that you would like to present, please contact Mike Colvin at Mike.Colvin@mdc.mo.gov. More details will be available soon. Stay tuned...

Annual Meeting and Symposium Announcement
2nd Call for Papers

26th Annual Meeting of the
Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
February 21-23, 2006

We look forward to getting together at the 2006 annual meeting, when this year's symposium will focus on Florida's Exotic Aquatic Animals. A number of individuals have agreed to give platform presentations and posters for the symposium. Abstracts for contributed platform and poster presentations have also started coming in. There is an exciting diversity of species and habitats to cover, with something on the program for everyone. **Presentations and posters can be submitted on any topic, not just exotics!**

Details for abstract format, program highlights, directions to the venue, etc., are available on our website (www.sdafs.org/flafs/) and in the October issue of the Shellcracker. The following is intended simply to outline the meeting and upcoming deadlines:

- **Abstracts are due** to Fish@ifas.ufl.edu by Friday, **January 13, 2006**.
- **Pre-registration forms are due** to Eric Nagid (Eric.Nagid@myfwc.com) by **January 13, 2006**.
- You can lock-in your **shirt size** by writing it in on a completed pre-registration form.
- Contact Chuck Cichra about the **symposium or program** at Fish@ifas.ufl.edu
- Contact Chuck Cichra about **student travel grants** at Fish@ifas.ufl.edu

The meeting will be held at the Ocala 4-H Camp (www.sdafs.org/flafs/doc/ocala4h.html), along Sellers Lake in the Ocala National Forest, east of Ocala, south of SR40, and just off SR19. Directions are provided below.
The meeting begins with lunch on Tuesday, February 21 and ends with lunch on Thursday, February 23 (see preliminary schedule on p. 9).
Accommodations are open cabins, with four twin beds to a bathroom. There are several images of this facility on our website home page.
*** Plan to bring your own bedding (sheets/blankets/sleeping bag, towels, pillow) and towels if you are sleeping overnight (bedding and towels are available in limited supply for a fee).

Directions to Ocala 4-H Camp

The Ocala 4-H Center is located in the Ocala National Forest on Sellers Lake. Directions are provided below for those traveling from different parts of the state. Mileage estimates are to be used for general reference only.

From SW:
Take I-75 N to 44 E, head towards Leesburg, turn right onto 441 S, in Eustis, take exit for 19 N (on right), turn left at light and head north on 19 N for ~19 mi., turn left onto NFS 535 at the Fire Control Center/Camp Ocala 4-H Center sign. Center will be on the right about 1/2 mi.

From SE:
Take Turnpike N to 429 N towards Apopka, turn left onto 441 N, once in Eustis, take a right onto 19 N., go for ~19 mi. and turn left onto NFS 535 at the Fire Control Center/Camp Ocala 4-H Center sign. Center will be on the right about 1/2 mi.

From NW:
Take I-75 S to Ocala, take the exit for 326 E, when 326 ends, turn left onto 40 E, turn right onto 19 S, go for ~4.5 mi. and turn right onto NFS 535 at the Fire Control Center/Camp Ocala 4-H Center sign. Center will be on the right about 1/2 mi.

From NE:
Take 17 S to Palatka, turn right onto 19 S, go for ~42 mi. and turn right onto NFS 535 at the Fire Control Center/ Camp Ocala 4-H Center sign. Center will be on the right about 1/2 mi.

Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society – 4H Camp Ocala, FL
Annual Meeting Registration: February 21 to 23, 2006

NAME: _____ STUDENT (YES/NO):_____

ADDRESS*:_____

_____

DAY-TIME PHONE: _____E MAIL:_____

AFFILIATION: _____

ARRIVAL DATE/TIME:_____

**This address will be used in our mailing list and should be the one where you want to receive newsletters and other materials.*

PRE-Registration Fees prior to January 13, 2006:

One-day Registration:		($20.00) _____
Full Registration:		**($30.00)** _____

LATE-Registration Fees after January 13, 2006:

One-day Registration:		($23.00) _____
Full Registration:		**($35.00)** _____

Partial Meals and Lodging

Tuesday: 21 February, 2006	Lunch	($6.00) _____
	Dinner	($12.00) _____
	Lodging	($23.50) _____
Wednesday: 22 February, 2006	Breakfast	($3.00) _____
	Lunch	($6.00) _____
	Dinner	($12.00) _____
	Lodging	($23.50) _____
Thursday: 23 February, 2006	Breakfast	($3.00) _____
	Lunch	($6.00) _____

Full Meals and Lodging: **($95.00)** _____

Linens (Bring your own or limited supply): ($6.00) _____

FL Chapter dues (calendar year 2006): **($10.00)** _____

Total Amount: _____

Total Enclosed: (Minimum $10.00 Deposit) _____

Balance Due: _____

Dietary Needs: (vegetarian, low fat, etc.) Note: This is a cafeteria-style service and food must be ordered at least a week in advance. Please r promptly if you need something special, training center staff will try to accommodate:

What size meeting T-shirt do you want? Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large XXX-Large

Please Make Checks Payable to Florida Chapter, AFS and mail to:

Eric Nagid
c/o FWC Gainesville Fisheries Lab
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville, FL 32653

Phone: (352) 392-9617 x. 240
Fax: (352) 392-3672
Email: eric.nagid@myfwc.com

We can accept **non-FWC VISA** or **MasterCard** on the meeting date.

Student Section

Student Research Highlight

Environmental Factors Affecting Aquatic Invertebrate Community Structure On Snags In The Ichetucknee River, Florida

Nancy M. Steigerwalt, M.S. (email: nmsteigerwalt@yahoo.com)
University of Florida/IFAS - Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

Increasing human populations in many counties throughout Florida are placing increasing demands on freshwater resources. In response to the increase in consumptive use, the State of Florida in 1973 mandated the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs) for water bodies throughout the state to protect the ecology of aquatic resources (Section 373.042 Florida Statutes). Aquatic invertebrates in the Ichetucknee River, a first-magnitude spring and river complex located in north central Florida, were sampled in Spring 2004 to determine the relative influences of environmental factors on their community structure. Minimum flows and levels need to be determined for this system to facilitate effective future management efforts.

Invertebrate community structure was assessed based on the following parameters: taxonomic composition, functional feeding group percent composition, evenness of distribution, diversity, species richness, and areal and relative abundance. Snags (submerged wood debris) were sampled due to the importance of this habitat in sandy-bottomed rivers. Community structure varied between the three morphometrically distinct reaches of the study area. The influences of epiphyton biomass, dissolved oxygen, current velocity, and percent canopy cover on invertebrate community structure were determined by way of canonical correspondence and multiple regression analyses.

A strong and significant relationship was found between invertebrate density and epiphyton biomass. Strong and significant relationships were found between Zygoptera (damselflies), Trichoptera (caddisflies), and Chironomidae (non-biting midges) abundance and epiphyton biomass. One species of Coleoptera (beetles), two species of Ephemeroptera (mayflies), five species of Trichoptera, and 10 species of Chironomidae also had strong and significant relationships with epiphyton biomass. Dissolved oxygen and current velocity also strongly influenced a number of species. Invertebrates located in areas of higher than average current velocity and dissolved oxygen included *Cheumatopsyche sp.*, *Hydroptila sp.* (Trichoptera), *Cardiocladius obscurus*, *Cricotopus bicinctus*, *Stenochironomus sp.*, *Parakiefferiella sp.*, *Rheotanytarsus sp. A*, *Rheotanytarsus pellucidus* (Chironomidae), and *Hemerodromia sp.* (Empididae).

Invertebrates most likely to be affected by reductions in current velocity include filterers and species with strong current velocity and high dissolved oxygen preferences. Reduction of current velocity in areas of low dissolved oxygen will decrease renewal rates, creating conditions unsatisfactory to sustain species sensitive to low dissolved oxygen. Maintaining current velocities at levels that support more sensitive species provides for maintenance of existing invertebrate communities.

Student Announcements

- **Student Travel Grants - 2006 Florida Chapter AFS Annual Meeting:** The Florida Chapter AFS will again be providing the opportunity for students to obtain free room and board (up to $95.00) for this year's annual meeting scheduled for 21-23 February 2005 in Ocala, Florida. In past years, 8 to 16 travel grants have been awarded each year. To be eligible to receive one of these travel grants, individuals must currently be registered in a Florida school and must apply for the grant (application form can be downloaded from the Chapter website: http://www.sdafs.org/flafs). Awardees will be selected and notified prior to the meeting. You do not have to be presenting a talk or poster to be eligible. You must currently be a member of the Florida Chapter AFS. If not, you must become a member when you register at the annual meeting. The travel grant does not cover the cost of membership or registration. Deadline for applying is January 27, 2006. If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Chuck Cichra at 352-392-9617 ext 249 or email: fish@ifas.ufl.edu. For meeting registration information contact Eric Nagid at 352-392-9617 ext. 240 or email: eric.nagid@myfwc.com or check the Florida AFS website: http://www.sdafs.org/flafs

- The Parent Society voted to reduce student memberships to $19 per year (reduced by ½ !), which includes a subscription to "Fisheries", online journal access, InfoBase access, and online directory access. The **Education** and **Fisheries Management Sections** have offered **FREE** memberships to AFS student members for 2006. Be sure to sign up for one or both when you renew your membership. If you recently renewed, contact an officer in the section(s) of interest.

Education section - http://www.fisheries.org/education/AFS_education_newsletters.htm

Fisheries management section - http://www.sdafs.org/fmsafs/

- SOUTHERN DIVISION MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO (Feb 8-12, 2006). Student workshop for the Southern Division AFS Meeting in San Antonio, on Friday, February 10, 2006 1:00-5:00 pm. Lucy Deckard, from the Office of the Vice President of Research at Texas A&M University will be presenting the following information at the workshop: Funding for Graduate Students - How to Find and Successfully Compete for Graduate Fellowships and Grants.

Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society – 4H Camp Ocala, FL February 21 to 23, 2006

DRAFT Program Overview

Tuesday, 21 February, 2006
11 am to 1:10pm - Registration (also during the session breaks or see Secretary-Treasurer, Eric Nagid)
12:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - Welcome (Chapter President, Dr. Rich McBride)
1:10pm to 5:10pm - Contributed Papers
5:10pm to 6:00pm - Break
6:00pm - Dinner
5:30 to 7:00pm - Registration / Poster Set Up
7:00pm - Formal Poster Session (Drinks, snacks, and presenters will be available)
8:00pm - Bonfire Social

Wednesday, 22 February, 2006
7:30am to 8:10pm - Registration
7:00am - Breakfast
8:00am - Welcome (Symposium Organizer, Dr. Chuck Cichra)
8:10am to 11:50am - ***Symposium: Florida's Exotic Aquatic Organisms***
12:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - Announcements
1:10pm to 5:10pm - ***Symposium-related papers/ Contributed papers***
6:00pm - Dinner
7:00pm - A short business meeting (Student Travel and Rottmann Award Presentations)
7:30pm - Raffle followed by a Bonfire Social

Thursday, 23 February, 2006
7:30am to 8:10 am - Registration
7:00am - Breakfast
8:00am - Welcome/Announcements
8:10am to 11:50am - Contributed Papers
12:00pm - Lunch
1:00pm - Awards for Best Papers, Best Posters, Power Tie Award, & Lampshade Award

Candidates for Upcoming Election for Florida Chapter Officers

This year's candidates for President-Elect are Justin Krebs and ***Eric Nagid. The candidates for Secretary-Treasurer are Linda Lombardi-Carlson and Bill Pouder.*** *Each candidate's biography is included here, so please read each and be prepared to vote at the Business Meeting to be held during the Florida Chapter's Annual Meeting in February.*

Candidates for President

Eric Nagid. I am a fisheries biologist with the FWC in the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. My work experiences so far have placed me in both the research and management capacities of the freshwater environment. Over the last three years, I worked primarily in lotic systems researching fish interactions with stream flows and levels. During this time period and since 1998, I have been a member of AFS and the Florida chapter, and I attribute much of what I know and who I know to the Florida chapter. At the annual meetings, I became accustomed to seeing familiar faces, became continually acquainted with new ones, and became more familiar with the fresh and salt water resources in Florida. This membership recruitment and retention is a reflection of the quality leadership and member involvement of the past, and this exchange of information within Florida is a primary objective of the Florida Chapter that we do very well.

Over the last 2 years, I served as your Secretary-Treasurer. It was my pleasure to assist with the Chapter's duties and responsibilities, and I committed myself to do the best job possible. I feel I accomplished this, and am ready to take the next step. If elected as your President-elect, I will construct a thoughtful symposium of natural resource importance that will interest both fresh and saltwater researches. As President, I will continue to serve as your Chapter's representative to AFS and SDAFS by upholding the Chapter bylaws, be attentive to member issues, concerns, and special projects, and engage students.

My symposium interest will focus on a watershed look at the largest freshwater lake in Florida – Lake Okeechobee. I'd like to put this big basin under a microscope and discuss the freshwater sport fishery trends, saltwater visitors, exotic invaders, aquatic macrophyte and water chemistry issues, flow alteration and estuarine connectivity, and perhaps how the recent hurricane activity has influenced some or all of these components. Although a short symposium will not be a comprehensive view of the biological complexity of this basin, I believe this holistic view can bring the major components of fresh and saltwater fishes and their habitats to the table. I look forward to seeing all of you in February.

Justin Krebs. I've been a member of the AFS Florida Chapter since 1998 when, as a Master's student at Florida Tech, I received a student travel grant to present my thesis research in Brooksville at my first professional meeting. Despite the chapter's small size and relatively close-knit group of members, this experience was overwhelming from the perspective of a young scientist. But the veteran members were welcoming and quick to share their experiences with newcomers. Since then, eight years and many meetings have passed and I anxiously look forward to each year's meeting as a chance to catch up with colleagues, and to learn about research by the Chapter's newest young scientists. Following the lead of many past presidents, as chapter president, I would continue to promote and encourage student participation. During my years as a student, it was the advice and support by chapter members that shaped my outlook on fisheries and inspired the career path that I have chosen.

After graduating seven years ago, I moved to Florida's west coast and began my career as a biologist with the State of Florida's Fisheries-Independent Monitoring program. This is where I gained an appreciation for fisheries science. Currently, I am employed with the U.S. Geological Survey, in Saint Petersburg, as a field ecologist studying habitat use by fishes and crustaceans in Tampa Bay wetlands. My research interests involve the role of the wetland landscape – particularly altered wetlands – as a determinant of habitat use by juvenile fishes like common snook, black drum, and tarpon. This research serves as the basis for my doctoral research at the University of South Florida.

Along these lines, I would like to see next year's symposium feature current research on Florida wetlands as fish habitat. Wetland habitat in the state of Florida (both freshwater and estuarine) has been impacted naturally, by the many recent hurricanes, and anthropogenically by residential and commercial development. With a considerable percentage of Florida's revenue coming from sportfishing and commercial harvest, it will be necessary for the scientific community, including those of us in the American Fisheries Society, to provide resource managers, anglers, and the greater community with an understanding of the consequences of wetland habitat loss and how Florida's wetlands contribute to fishery populations.

To date, I have been involved locally with the Florida chapter through participation at annual meetings and as a member of the Chapter's bylaw review committee. At the national level, I have served the last three years as newsletter editor for the AFS Estuaries section. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the chapter in a greater capacity as president and hope that my involvement will inspire up and coming scientists to pursue their interests in fisheries.

Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

Linda Lombardi-Carlson. It is truly an honor to be nominated to run for the Secretary-Treasurer of American Fisheries Society-Florida Chapter. My introduction to American Fisheries Society began while I worked in Dave Lindquist's laboratory as an

undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina–Wilmington. After completing my bachelor's degree in 1996, I began my graduate work (master's) at the University of Mississippi in Glenn Parsons' laboratory. My thesis focused on latitudinal gradient demographics differences in a Florida coastal shark species. Dr. Parsons furthered my interest in AFS issues as he was the president of the AFS-Mississippi Chapter. Once I completed my master's degree and moved to Florida, I became a member of the American Fisheries Society-Florida Chapter. Since 2002, I have worked as a research fishery biologist at the NOAA Fisheries Laboratory in Panama City, FL. My research is directed on the conservation and management of Serranid species from the Gulf of Mexico. I am also responsible for the data management for our production ageing facility, which gives me much experience in keeping accurate records. As a researcher for NOAA, I have attended almost all annual Florida Chapter AFS meetings since 2002 and I am familiar with the issues related to the AFS-Florida Chapter. During these meetings, the relaxed atmosphere has allowed me to interact with all Florida state and federal biologists, and Florida university faculty and students to learn more about all the outstanding research and problems specific to our state chapter. If elected as Secretary-Treasurer, I will do my best to keep the financial records and meeting notes organized and available to all Florida AFS Chapter members. Thank you for this consideration.

Bill Pouder. I have been affiliated with AFS since 1995 and a member of the Florida Chapter since 2000. While in graduate school at Auburn University, I served as President and Vice President of the Auburn Student Chapter and was responsible for assisting with the development and planning of the 1996 AFS Southeastern Mid-Year Meeting in Mobile, Alabama. I received a MS degree in fisheries in 1999 from Auburn and started my career in Florida with FWRI (Fisheries Independent Monitoring) at the Apalachicola Field Lab. In 1999, I moved to Freshwater Fisheries Management in FWC and served as a fisheries biologist in Panama City for three years. In 2002, I took a position with FWC in Aquatic Plant Management in Lakeland. I recently transferred back to Freshwater Fisheries Management as a fisheries biologist out of the same office. My goal, if elected, is to provide assistance to elected officers and members to maintain the high quality and standards the chapter has developed over the past 26 years. This will include providing an open line of communication and the recruitment and retention of members to the Florida and parent chapter.

Business Meeting Agenda for the 26th Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
February 21-23, 2006
Ocala National Forest, Florida

1. Call to Order
2. Establish a Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Acknowledge Past Presidents
5. Secretary/Treasurer Report – Eric Nagid
6. Committee and Subunit Reports
    a. Southern Division Update – Larry Connor
    b. Newsletter – Jaclyn Debicella
    c. Website – Bob Wattendorf
    d. Raffle – Bridget Tiffany
    e. Student Sub-Unit – Mark Rogers
    f. Student Scholarships and Grants – Chuck Cichra
        i. Rottmann Scholarship Recipients
        ii. Travel Grant Recipients
7. Elections
8. New Business

As you all know, the 26th annual meeting is quickly approaching. In years past, because of the diligence and enthusiasm of raffle chairmen, the raffle that generates funding for student travel has always been a big highlight of the meeting. For the past several years, Tom Maher has done an outstanding job in procuring some great prizes as well as organizing the raffle and generating enthusiasm among members. However, this year, Tom has decided will be his last as raffle chairmen, so the monumental task of filling Tom's shoes has been left solely to me. So great is this task that I am officially seeking a raffle co-chair for next year to assist me in mailings, soliciting donations, and the general organization of the raffle. If anyone is interested in helping out in any capacity next year, please contact Bridget Tiffany at bridgettiffany@yahoo.com or Alan Collins at lac96@bellsouth.net

Additionally, I encourage all of you to bring at least one item to donate to the raffle. Let's make Tom's last year the biggest and best raffle yet.

See you all soon,
Bridget Tiffany

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