



Newsletter, Volume 27(1)

\*newsletter formatting may change among email programs.

AFS Education Section Website:  
<http://www.fisheries.org/education/>

## PRESIDENT'S LINE

**Donna Parrish**, Vermont Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, [Donna.Parrish@uvm.edu](mailto:Donna.Parrish@uvm.edu)



Since the last newsletter, we have made progress on several fronts. All of the section committees are off and running, including the ad hoc committee to address student paper and poster judging at the AFS annual meeting. **Trent Sutton** is chairing this committee and he reports

below on some proposed changes to the system. Please read these because we will discuss them at the business meeting in Lake Placid.

At the AFS mid-year governing board meeting, we discussed the issue of declining section membership within the society. Many sections are now near or below the 200 members required for the section to have a vote on the governing board. The topic of declining section membership will be addressed during a governing board retreat prior to the AFS meeting in Lake Placid. In the meantime, the board voted at the mid-year meeting to

give each section with a representative present a vote at board meetings regardless of the number of section members.

Given that our section still have more than 200 members, this decision did not affect us. However, the Student Subsection representative at meetings is now the only participant without a vote. **President Kohler** instructed **Michael Bailey**, Student Subsection President, and myself to discuss the issue of the student subsections becoming a section to provide a vote on the board to students. Our section EXCOM discussed this via email. We do not believe it is a benefit to the students to try to manage a separate section. In fact, we would prefer the students to become much more active within the Education Section.

What our stance on the subsection topic does not address is whether there is a separate mechanism for allowing the student subsection representative to vote at governing board meetings. Perhaps we can simply propose a separate action to allow the subsection a vote. Without a vote it is anticipated the student subsection representative will feel less welcomed and equal at the table. We don't want this to happen. Suggestions on this topic can be sent to Michael Bailey ([Michael.Bailey@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Michael.Bailey@umit.maine.edu)) and/or me ([Donna.Parrish@uvm.edu](mailto:Donna.Parrish@uvm.edu)).

Thanks to all for your participation in the Section. I hope to see you at the business meeting in Lake Placid. Please note the meeting is at high noon on Monday, September 11. We will have some luncheon items for attendees so there are no acceptable excuses for missing the meeting!

## **SECRETARY / TREASURER'S LINE**

**Steve Chipps**, South Dakota State University, [Steven.Chipps@sdstate.edu](mailto:Steven.Chipps@sdstate.edu).

**DRAFT**  
**Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting -- Education Section**

**2005 Annual meeting American Fisheries Society  
Anchorage, Alaska  
September 11, 2005**

**I. Call to Order**--Meeting was called to order by President Chris Guy.

**II. Introduction of guests**--Past Presidents of the Section, Education section officers and AFS staff were introduced by C. Guy.

**III. Determination of quorum**--S. Chipps confirmed that 10% of membership (approx. 20 members) was present and a quorum was established.

**IV. Approval of agenda**--C. Guy introduced agenda. D. Willis seconded approval of agenda and it passed by consensus.

**V. Approval of minutes from last business meeting**--Brian Murphy moved to approve minutes from the 2004 Education Section meeting as written; Mark Pegg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. President's comments**--C. Guy highlighted the importance of Section activities to the Society; recent accomplishments include book projects (revision of Fisheries Techniques and Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data) and improvement of the Section's web page. He noted that the Mexico Chapter has just been approved--adding that membership in the Section remains an important issue. He believes we need to do a better job at increasing membership given the important role the Section plays in educational/professional development for the Society.

**VII. Treasurer's report**--K. Pope presented the Treasurer's report. Total assets of the Section as of July 20, 2005 were \$148,917. Our fiscal situation is good and there were no questions from the floor.

**VIII. Report by AFS officer**--President Chris Kohler addressed the membership. He highlighted the important educational contributions and student opportunities the Section provides. Noted the importance of the Skinner fund that helps students attend annual meetings. He added that AFS relies heavily on the Education Section and he thanked the Section for always coming through.

**IX. Committee Reports**

Newsletter: Rebecca Zeiber encouraged submissions for this year's newsletter and expects the issue to go out in late fall. C. Guy added that the Section web page has moved to AFS (previously at Virginia Tech), but requires a password to keep things updated.

Excellence in Fisheries Education: Donna Parrish noted that Hiram Li, who originally chaired this committee, stepped down because of a conflict of interest, but added that Hiram did a lot of work in assisting the committee.

Skinner committee: S. Chipps summarized the 2005 Skinner Memorial Award competition. Thanked other committee members and noted there were 104 applications for the 2005 meeting. Ten awardees and seven honorable mentions were selected by the committee. C. Guy congratulated each winner as their names were called.

Student posters/papers: M. Holliman mentioned that judges were recruited earlier this year than in the past, adding that student presentations at this year's meeting numbered about 250 oral presentations and 180 posters. Asked for continued judging support from Section members. The goal was to have three judges per presentation. Chris Guy advised we might want to consider a new strategy for recruiting judges. Last year's winners were acknowledged by C. Guy.

Program committee: D. Parrish noted that the program committee (K. Bertrand/M. Mather/D. Parrish) organized and sponsored the symposium "Written communications: writing and editing for fisheries journals" at the 2005 annual meeting.

**X. Ad hoc committees and special projects--**C. Paukert discussed the Fisheries Programs pamphlet. A draft web page version is in the works with links to all fisheries programs. The pamphlet and web page should be ready soon. M. Hansen asked how it will be linked to Coop Units; C. Paukert and C. Guy acknowledge that the layout needs refining, but it is getting close.

D. Hewitt discussed "Employment in Fisheries Science." Draft version is out for review and anticipates publication in the spring.

Fisheries Techniques (3rd edition). Al Zale discussed progress to date. A web-based survey was used to find out what folks liked and wanted improved from earlier editions. Chapter authors were selected by a competitive process based on proposal submissions. Al believes the book will benefit from an excellent slate of authors; the editors are promoting a timely schedule and working to keep things moving. Overall, there has been great progress with staying on schedule.

Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data (1st edition). M. Brown updated everyone on the status of the final edits. The book included 14 chapters and 37 authors--most of the chapters contain data CDs and programs as instructional material. C. Paukert asked when the book will be out. M. Brown responded that the book is in the copy editors' hands and anticipates some additional work with the editors (C. Guy and M. Brown) before going up to press. Expects book will be available sometime in spring 2006.

**XI. Report from Student Subsection--**K. Bertrand provided updates on student subsection activities. They are working to better integrate student sections with chapter and Section activities. As an example, the subsection developed a web page to help students link with chapter/section activities.

## **XII. Awards and Recognition of Outgoing Officers**

Student paper/poster awards: C. Guy asked the membership to acknowledge (by applause) all student paper/poster awards for last year.

Skinner awards: [Skinner Awardees and Honorable Mentions were acknowledged during the committee report].

Excellence in Fisheries Education: D. Parrish asked M. Quist to read his nomination letter. Mike highlighted the many contributions made by C. Guy as both an educator and leader. C. Guy was presented with

a \$500 award from the Section. He thanked the membership and acknowledged the support he received throughout the years from professionals (Phil Jeffries and Dave Willis) and students. He also thanked his family and the many students he has advised over the years. Chris then asked that his award go to support activities at Kansas State (\$250) and Montana State (\$250) Universities--adding that students represent what the Education Section is about.

Certificates of Appreciation: K. Pope received a Certificate of Appreciation for his hard work and dedication as Section Secretary/Treasurer. Steve Lochmann received a Certificate of Appreciation as Southern Division Representative. Tom McMahn received a Certificate of Appreciation as Western Division Representative and Mike Holliman received a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts in organizing student paper/poster competitions.

### **XIII. Old Business**

Text book funding: C. Guy provided an overview of two production strategies for publishing books. The first was the traditional model. If the Section(s) covers production costs, we receive up to 50% of the sales (hereafter referred to as 50/50 model). Alternatively, the Section could defer production costs to AFS; the Section would receive 7% of the sales until production costs are recovered, then 10% of the sales thereafter (hereafter referred to as 7/10 model). Before deciding which model to use, Chris highlighted several issues to consider: (1) production costs for AFS books often range between 60-70K (A. Lerner, pers comm.), (2) some books (i.e., Inland Fisheries Management and Fisheries Techniques) have generated good revenue for the section, (3) we support a lot of programs--more than section dues generate, (4) considering our textbook fund, we would be constrained to only 1-2 books under the current model with unknown financial risks of recovering costs. Chris then asked the membership "...how do we want to fund...Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data and Fisheries Techniques 3rd Edition?"

Al Zale moved that the Section support production costs to fund both 1) "Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data" and 2) "Fisheries Techniques 3rd Edition." B. Vondracek seconded the motion. C. Guy opened the floor for discussion; asked how we might recover costs if books do not generate sufficient sales. C. Kohler pointed out that Fisheries Techniques is a 'no brainer' given the previous success of the book; if viewed as a business model, the section should easily recover costs. He noted that other books (i.e., Methods for Fish Biology) were not as successful and asked how "Analysis and Interpretation..." book will be marketed--as a textbook or reference book. If used primarily as a reference book, it may not generate sufficient sales to warrant production by the Section. M. Brown responded that the book is geared as a textbook, targeting primarily graduate-level education. S. Bonar and D. Willis supported use of "Analysis..." as a textbook, adding that the book will be useful in classroom instruction (i.e. graduate students). M. Hansen, however, noted that other 'quantitative' books published since Ricker have not sold well; not inclined that "Analysis..." will be successful as Techniques. T. Kwak added that the size/volume of "Analysis..." will further increase production costs and questioned how that will affect sales (i.e., book costs).

T. Kwak made a friendly amendment to A. Zale's motion that only Techniques be considered for discussion. A. Zale accepted the friendly amendment and moved that the Education Section cover production costs for Fisheries Techniques (3rd Edition). The motion was seconded by B. Vondracek. The motion passed unanimously that the Section cover production costs (i.e., 50/50 model) for the 3rd edition of Fisheries Techniques. A. Zale then moved that the Section fund production costs for "Analysis..." B. Vondracek seconded the motion. C. Paukert asked how many volumes "Fish. Techniques" were sold. K. Pope--"a bunch." W. Hubert added that books are a service to society--and that we should take a risk. D. Willis noted that the Society likes the 7/10 model to make a profit. B. Murphy asked what the timeline was for committing to a decision on funding "Analysis...". C. Guy--AFS is pretty flexible, but noted the book is in its final stages.

C. Kohler added that to get the book published, should we [Section] use all [most] of our available funding or pass on to AFS?--either way we get two books. C. Guy brought the motion to a vote; the motion to fund "Analysis..." was opposed. S. Lochmann then made the motion that the Section fund "Analysis..." using the 7/10 model. C. Paukert seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

#### **XIV. Additional Reports**

Standardization textook: S. Bonar updated the Section on the new standard methods textbook. Noted that the Education and Management sections have offered to support the book. Additional funding [150 K, in kind] is being sought from state and federal agencies, but at this point, not sure who will cover publication costs.

Hutton Program: J. Lubeck summarized the Hutton program and thanked the Section for continued support. Noted that the new survey results, available in October, will help track the success of the Hutton Program by following Hutton students' educational and career progress over 10 years. Noted that the Hutton website provided details on educational opportunities and travel award available through the program.

**XV. Installation of New Officers**--Newly elected officers were installed and included: Donna Parris (President), Tom Kwak (President-elect), Steve Chipps (Secretary-Treasurer), Chris Mirek (Western Division Representative), and Jill Jenkins (South Division Representative). D. Parrish presented C. Guy with a Certificate of Appreciation. Noted that one of her goals was to increase the membership diversity and number. Toward this end, will ask more of representatives and committee assignments.

**XVI. New Business**--None.

**XVII. Adjournment**--Motion was made to adjourn; passed. Meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted by Steven R. Chipps,  
Secretary/Treasurer.*

## *Financial Summary*

*August 30, 2005 to June 30, 2006*

*Prepared by: Steve R. Chipps, Secretary-Treasurer, Education Section*

Income	
Dues	1,203.00
Book sales	22,184.25
Total	\$23,387.25

Expenses	
Bank/transfer fees	85.93
Meeting social	682.50
Excellence Award (C. Guy)	500.00
Travel (president/past president)	3,921.17
Skinner (honorable mentions)	475.00
Skinner (AFS membership)	190.00
Award plaques	125.00
Total	\$5,979.60

Accounts (as of June 30, 2006)	
Checking	46,930.85
CD (7 mo @4.5%)	60,000.00
CD (7 mo @4.5%)	60,000.00
Total	\$166,930.85

**PLEASE NOTE: EDUCATION  
SECTION BUSINESS MEETING  
AT LAKE PLACID ON  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11,  
FROM NOON - 2 P.M., LIGHT  
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

# **SKINNER MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE**

## **Skinner Memorial Award Recipients**

**Craig Paukert**, Kansas State University, [cpaukert@ksu.edu](mailto:cpaukert@ksu.edu)

The 2006 Skinner Memorial Award had 46 applicants and awarded 11 Skinner Awards and five Honorable Mentions. Each award recipient will be reimbursed up to \$600 for their travel to the 2006 American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in September 10-14, 2006 in Lake Placid, New York. Honorable Mentions receive reimbursement for their registration at the Annual Meeting. All recipients (including Honorable Mentions) receive a one-year student membership to AFS as well.

Committee once again had a difficult time selecting from a very deserving applicant pool. The following people have a very rewarding but difficult task in selecting winners from some of our best students in the Society.

### **2006 Skinner Committee:**

Craig Paukert (KS), Chair

Katie Bertrand (KS)

Patrick Braaten (MT)

Joe Hightower (NC)

John Hoxmeier (MN)

Mark Pegg (NE)

Jason Vokoun (CT)

David Ward (AZ)

The Award recipients and Honorable Mentions will be expected to come to the Education Section and Society business meetings as well as the AFS awards luncheon. Please congratulate the students (and committee members) if you see them at the meeting. The Skinner Award is really one of the highest honors our Society can give to students.

**2006 Skinner Memorial Award Recipients:**

Michael Bailey	University of Maine
Andrew Carlson	University of Wyoming
Bart Durham	Texas Tech University
Janice Kerns	Tennessee Tech University
Thomas Lang	University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Heidi Lewis	Southern Illinois University
Katherine Mills	Cornell University
Quinton Phelps	South Dakota State University
Mark Rogers	University of Florida
Jesse Trushenski	Southern Illinois University
Rebecca Zeiber	Purdue University

**Honorable Mentions:**

Benjamin Ciotti	University of Delaware
Robin DeBruyne	Central Michigan University
Dustin Edwards	University of Connecticut
David Rowe	Iowa State University
William Smith	University of North Carolina- Wilmington

**How Should the Skinner Memorial Award Recipients Be Selected?**

**Craig Paukert**, Kansas State University, [cpaukert@ksu.edu](mailto:cpaukert@ksu.edu)

2006 Skinner Memorial Award Chair

(with lots of input from the Skinner Committee: Katrie Bertrand, Pat Braaten, Joe Hightower, John Hoxmeier, Mark Pegg, Jason Vokoun, and David Ward).

Over the last couple months, there has been some discussion among the Education Section EXCOM and Skinner Memorial Award Committee members about how to administer the Skinner Award in future years. In the recent past, the number of awards selected each year depended on the interest earned from the Skinner account, regardless of the number of applicants or meeting cost. This brought up some questions about the purpose of the Skinner Award. Is the purpose of the Skinner Award to provide travel funding for as many deserving students as funding allows, or is the award more about prestige and therefore we should provide fewer awards with possibly more funds per award? In addition, if the award is more about prestige, then should the number of awards also be based on the number of applicants (e.g., top 10%)?

Another related issue was the dollar amount of the award. The amount provided to each student has varied over the years and has increased recently because of increased meeting costs. Next year's meeting is in San Francisco which will be pretty expensive. Therefore, do we increase the award next year to adjust for increased cost at the expense of providing fewer awards? Do we vary the award amount each year based on cost of the meeting? This relates back to the purpose of the award. Is the intent of the award the prestige of receiving the Skinner, or based more on financial need and meeting costs (or both)?

Currently the committee rates each applicant in three general categories: AFS involvement, professionalism and leadership, and reason to attend. In addition, there is consideration given to the financial need of the applicant (i.e., does the student already have funds to attend the meeting). There has been some discussion regarding whether financial need should play a role in the rating process.

These are some of the questions the Skinner Committee and EXCOM have discussed this year. It has become clear that there is not one easy answer and many viewpoints. Therefore, we would like your input as an Education Section member. We will discuss these issues briefly at the Education Section business meeting in Lake Placid, but below is my synthesis of the many views.

Some people view the Skinner as a travel award and it should be given to as many people as possible based on available funds. One thought was that the more awards we give, the more likely it is that these students will remain active in AFS in the future. Also, the intent is to supplement the travel and not pay for all travel so the committee should have the discretion to increase or decrease the award amount based on meeting location and costs. This could possibly be done by estimating meeting costs and then the award would be a percentage of those estimated costs. However, we need to ensure we still do not increase the costs so high that very few awards are given (which may turn the award into a prestige award and not a travel award).

Other people view the Skinner Award as a prestige award and they maintain there are other avenues for funding travel (e.g., research grants, university travel grants, etc.). Therefore, maybe we should institute minimum standards for the award and/or select only a certain percentage of the applicant pool to ensure we select (for example) the top 10% of the applicants. These select candidates would then receive a larger award to cover more of the meeting costs. Although most of the applications we receive are very good, there are a select few that stand above the rest and should be recognized for those efforts. If the award is based on prestige, then financial need should not be a factor.

Several people mentioned the possibility of having two awards: one for travel and one for prestige. This has been discussed in the past, but would be a 'hybrid' between travel and prestige. Several, if not most of the students that receive a Skinner award likely would still have travel funds to attend the meeting even if they did not receive the award. Therefore, we should have travel awards which may include financial need, but then select few (or one) merit-based awards that are truly reserved for the best of the best students.

There are no easy answers to these questions and whatever is decided (even if that is to keep the award status quo) will not please everybody. I hope that you will consider these issues and comments and provide some input at the Education Section business meeting (or to me directly). The Skinner Award generates a lot of interest from AFS and the Education Section so I believe there will be some good discussion at the business meeting.

## **FISHERIES PROGRAMS AND RELATED COURSES WEBPAGE**

**Craig Paukert**, Kansas State University, [cpaukert@ksu.edu](mailto:cpaukert@ksu.edu)

The new version of the Fisheries Programs and Related Courses brochure has been modified and posted online

through the Education Section's webpage. Click on the Education link on the Education Section's webpage and then on Overview (<http://www.fisheries.org/education/programs.htm>) to view pages related to questions you should ask when looking for a graduate program, basic degree requirements, AFS certification, colleges and universities with fisheries-related programs, and job boards. The webpage builds on existing webpages that have links to schools with fisheries-related programs, as well as other schools not listed on those pages. We hope students will find this information useful when looking to further their education at any level.

## **AD HOC PAPER AND POSTER JUDGING CHANGES COMMITTEE**

**Trent M. Sutton,** Purdue University,  
[tsutton@purdue.edu](mailto:tsutton@purdue.edu)

Since 1989, the number of student presentations judged for the Best Student Paper and Best Student Poster awards at the annual meeting has increased from 17 to 375 (2006). With that increase has come a significant challenge to the chair of the Best Paper and Poster Award Committee--securing enough judges to ensure that each student presenter receives three evaluations. That challenge has proven to be impossible to meet in recent years due to the significant increase in the number of student presentations. Given that the upward trend in student presentations is sure to continue, the Ad Hoc Paper and Poster Judging Changes Committee of the Education Section was created last fall to examine this issue and propose a solution(s) to alleviate it. In addition to that primary concern, respondents to the Students Paper/Poster Judging Survey that was presented in the last Education Section newsletter indicated that they did not participate in the judging process at meetings for the following reasons: (1) paper and/or poster scoring criteria were too nebulous; (2) poor organization in soliciting judges; (3) last-minute

changes in their schedule; (4) conflicts with talks, symposia, or other activities to which they wished to attend; and (5) frustration with the current process. Given these concerns which have resulted in the reductions of the availability of judges and the increased need for judges, the Education Section is at a serious crossroads in terms of how it handles paper and poster judging at the annual meeting. Most members agree that the process is broken; but how do we fix it?

With that as a bit of context, the Ad Hoc Paper and Poster Judging Changes Committee and 2006 Annual Meeting Program Committee have made several changes to the judging process that should allow for the alleviation of some of these problems. From an organizational standpoint, the following guidelines have been followed in scheduling student oral presentations: (1) all student presentations in contributed paper sessions (N = 170 out of 290) will be held in the same venue (the Olympic Center); (2) presentations will be more equitably distributed over the course of the meeting and will not be piled up on the last day (Monday: 54 presentations; Tuesday: 73 presentations; Wednesday: 98 presentations; Thursday: 63 presentations); (3) avoid scheduling student talks on Tuesday afternoon due to student activities; and (4) block student talks within time slots to make it easier for judges. Hopefully these changes will smooth the process somewhat.

Currently, there will be 290 student papers and 85 student posters at the 2006 annual meeting. At three judges per student presentation, there will be a total of 1,125 judging events for the meeting which will require 225 judges (assuming that each judge evaluates five presentations). Therefore, we are encouraging students to participate in the judging process this year to increase the pool of available judges (so please encourage your graduate students to serve as a judge). It should be mentioned that students that are presenting papers can only judge posters and vice-versa. If a student is presenting both a paper and a poster, he or she will not be eligible to judge any presentations. In the Best Student Paper and Poster Awards Committee update of this newsletter, I have provided a student awards judges application (so please fill out and return it to me). The

committee is also in the process of revising the paper and poster scoring criteria and will be providing a more explicit set of instructions for judges, which will be distributed before and during the meeting. We will also work on providing student presenters with more meaningful and timely feedback following the annual meeting.

While these modifications to the judging process should help to some extent, additional, large-scale changes will also be discussed over the remainder of the summer by committee members and brought forth at the Education Section meeting. Potential changes to the judging process include the following: (1) provide incentive for AFS members to judge presentations by giving out additional raffle or drink tickets, reducing membership costs, or award points toward the purchase of AFS books; (2) evaluate only those student papers and posters for which presenters have identified on their abstract submission that they would like to be evaluated; (3) evaluate only those student papers and posters that are near completion (no judging of presentations with preliminary data); and (4) have each section (i.e., Fisheries Management Section, Early Life History Section, etc.) host their own award competition, which would reduce the number of judges the Education Section will need to find; best award winners from each section can then be considered for best overall paper and poster awards). Invariably, there are additional ideas for streamlining the judging process, so I strongly encourage any comments or suggestions (Phone: 765-496-6266; Email: [tsutton@purdue.edu](mailto:tsutton@purdue.edu)).

## **BEST STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER AWARDS COMMITTEE**

**Trent M. Sutton,** Purdue University,  
[tsutton@purdue.edu](mailto:tsutton@purdue.edu)

With the 2006 AFS meeting just around the corner, it is time yet again to initiate the annual task of arm twisting and bribing to secure judges for student oral presentations and posters. Currently, there are 290 student oral presentations and 85 student posters slated to be given in Lake Placid. The goal of this committee will be to secure three judges per student presenter, which will result in 1,125 judging events for the meeting. To meet this need, we will require 225 judges (assuming that each judge evaluates a minimum of five oral presentations and/or posters). Graduate students are also encouraged to participate in the judging process. However, students giving oral presentations can only judge posters and vice-versa. If a student is giving both an oral presentation and a poster, he or she will not be eligible to judge any presentations. Professionals and students are encouraged to sign up early using the form below to allow the committee to assess judging needs for the AFS meeting. Please complete the form (either electronic or paper formats are acceptable) below prior to 15 August 2006 and return to:

Trent Sutton, Chair  
2006 AFS Best Student Paper and Poster Awards Committee  
Purdue University  
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources  
195 Marsteller Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
Phone: 765-496-6266  
Fax: 765-496-2422  
Email: [tsutton@purdue.edu](mailto:tsutton@purdue.edu)

## **AFS 2006 Student Award Judges Application**

Name:

Title:

Affiliation:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

I would like to judge (check one or more of the following):

\_\_\_\_\_ Award for Best Student Poster Presentation

\_\_\_\_\_ Award for Best Student Oral Presentation

For oral presentations:

\_\_\_\_\_ Please randomly assign my judging responsibilities

\_\_\_\_\_ Please assign my judging responsibilities on the following day(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday

## **AFS ADOPTS NEW GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING POSTERS**

**Bob Carline**, Penn State University Cooperative Unit, [rcarline@psu.edu](mailto:rcarline@psu.edu)

Last year, AFS President Chris Kohler asked Bob Carline and Donna Parrish to chair an ad hoc committee charged with revising Poster Presentation Guidelines. Other committee members included Trent Sutton, Dave Wahl, and Al Zale.

Part of the motivation for this effort stemmed from an informal survey at the Anchorage meeting of attendees who visited the poster sessions. Nearly all of those questions strongly favored posters with a minimum of text. Past guidelines for posters and scoring criteria for student posters encouraged text-heavy designs.

The committee first reviewed design guidelines developed by other scientific societies. They then assembled those design criteria that seemed to best fit the kinds of information that AFS members typically communicate via posters. After much lively debate, the committee settled on a set of guidelines. These guidelines are posted on the Lake Placid webpage: [http://www.afslakeplacid.org/Prog\\_GuidelinesForPosters.htm](http://www.afslakeplacid.org/Prog_GuidelinesForPosters.htm).

Committee members will review posters at Lake Placid and assess how well authors have followed the new guidelines. This review may also prompt some revisions of the guidelines. Reactions of Education Section members to the new guidelines are welcome; please send them to Bob Carline at [rcarline@psu.edu](mailto:rcarline@psu.edu).

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

**Attend the First-Ever Student-Mentor Lunch in Lake Placid!**

**Tom Kwak**, North Carolina State University, [tkwak@ncsu.edu](mailto:tkwak@ncsu.edu)

The Education Section will sponsor and organize a Student-Mentor Lunch at the 2006 AFS Annual Meeting in Lake Placid, New York (September 10-14), and we invite you to attend! Students and professionals will have the option to discuss experiences, opportunities, and challenges in fisheries careers in a one-on-one forum during the Student-Mentor Lunch on Tuesday, September 12, 12:00-1:20 p.m.

*Students:* sign up to join a fisheries professional for lunch and learn from their experience.

*Professionals:* sign up to take a student to lunch (at your expense) and pass on the mentorship that you've received in your career.

*All:* On your early meeting registration form (online or in the June issue of *Fisheries*), please check the box labeled that you are interesting in "participating in the Student/Mentor Lunch." Register for the meeting by August 4th to participate--and save a hundred bucks! Please spread the word!

This will be an enjoyable event to mentor the next generation of fisheries professionals. The Hilton Hotel in Lake Placid is offering a buffet lunch for this event at a reduced cost of \$7 per person. See the check box, and sign up on your early meeting registration form!

A similar event takes place at the AFS Southern Division Annual Meeting, and it has been very successful there and at a number of state chapter meetings. This year, we're giving it a try at the parent society meeting for the first time, and we'd appreciate your support in the way of attendance. If it's successful in Lake Placid, we may consider it as an annual event. Your questions and feedback are appreciated. Contact Mike Bailey, Student Subsections President, at [michael\\_bailey@umit.maine.edu](mailto:michael_bailey@umit.maine.edu) and Tom Kwak, Section President-Elect, at [tkwak@ncsu.edu](mailto:tkwak@ncsu.edu).

### **What is the Smallest Fish?**

**Steve Lochmann**, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, [slochmann@uaex.edu](mailto:slochmann@uaex.edu)

There was considerable excitement in the fish community recently over the discovery of a rather small fish found in the peat swamps of Indonesia. The discussions centered around the possibility that this little fish might hold the record for the smallest adult fish. The debate is an interesting opportunity for fish-squeezers to expand our horizons and learn a bit. What is the world's smallest adult fish? If you think you know the answer, email your response to [slochmann@uaex.edu](mailto:slochmann@uaex.edu). We will provide a "small incentive" to some lucky individual, randomly chosen

from among the respondents with the correct answer. You must be a member of the Education Section to be eligible for this "small incentive." Take some time, explore the possibilities, and see what there is to learn about really small fish.

## **UPCOMING AFS PUBLICATIONS**

### *An AFS Guide to Fisheries Employment*

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All the chapters for the AFS Guide to Fisheries Employment are currently with AFS Publications and they are working on layout and finals details. The goal of this project was to have it ready for the Lake Placid meeting, and it will be available at that time.

## **EDITORS' NOTE**

This is the third electronic version of the Education Section newsletter. The newsletter should have arrived in an HTML format if you have that option available in your email program. We hope that the formatting and pictures arrived to your computer the same way we sent them, but there is sometimes no telling what goes on in the inter[net] galactic space between computers and servers. We have attempted to keep the embedded pictures from becoming attachments while sending the newsletter. However, they sometimes just seem to show up. Please let us know if this has happened to you.

We welcome any suggestions to format, content, or any other issues regarding the newsletter. Newsletter submissions are always welcome; just send them to one of us.

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