**VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3** 

IOWA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

# LATERAL LINES

#### DEC/EMBER 15, 2012

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Visit Iowa AFS on the web:

http://www.fisheriessociety.org/iowa/ index.html

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**Our Missions:** To improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

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## President's Corner

**Kim Bogenschutz** 

I am sure some of the past presidents have struggled as I have trying to decide on topics for the President's Corner. I found one inspiration from reading the section on committee chairs and members in the chapter bylaws. It states that "the President shall appoint and charge the chairs and members of standing committees within 60 days after being installed into office." I have not done that. I also have not looked at the committee rosters to see who, besides the Chair. if anyone, is on the committees. Please let me know if you are interested in being a member of the Auditing, Membership, Best Paper, Resolution, Nominating and Ballot Tally, Program, or Student Affairs Committee. I will be asking for volunteers and/or making assignments soon this winter, starting with the Program Committee (see below) that can have an "indefinite number" of members.

Looking at other state chapter reports in the North Central Division Annual Meeting Briefing Book was another source of inspiration for me. Our chapter has awards for best professional and student papers and posters. Those are great awards, but it seems to me that we may want to award our members for other contributions to fisheries and aquatic resources. The types of awards given by other chapters include distinguished professional service, outstanding young professional, and excellence in aquatic resource conservation. I may add a special committee this year to look at the options for additional chapter awards. If the committees listed above do not interest you, maybe this is the committee for you.

Speaking of the Program Committee, we are trying something different this year for the Iowa AFS Annual Meeting (AFS). It will be held at Honey Creek Resort State Park immediately following the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau Statewide Meeting (Statewide). The majority of Iowa AFS members are Iowa DNR Fisheries employees. Combining the two meetings will offer DNR employees the chance to go to a place other than Springbrook for Statewide and reduced travel to one joint meeting versus going to AFS in January and Statewide in March. This is a pilot project to be evaluated for future years. The Statewide Committee is working on their program and envisions general Page 3

administrative and fisheries information at Statewide and technical papers at AFS. Look for the call for papers for AFS later in this newsletter. Lodging and registration details will be shared with the membership via email once final arrangements are made.

This past summer, I was involved in a really neat project through lowa State University's Program for Women in Science and Engineering (PWSE). The mission of PWSE is to increase the participation of and enhance the educational experience for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. I have been a presenter for several years at the Taking the Road Less Traveled Career Conferences for 6th-12th Grade Girls (TRLT). Six TRLT career conferences are offered each year. This fall, PWSE unveiled the women in STEM careers poster series featuring 6 different women impacting the world in 6 different ways. I was chosen to be the subject of one of the posters and had my picture taken over 100 times on a sunny day this past summer. The final products (i.e., posters, question and answer sessions) are available at

#### http://www.pwse.iastate.edu/posters.html.

Check them out and share them with the girls in your lives.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

2013 Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau Statewide Meeting When: February 11-12, 2013 Where: Honey Creek Resort State Park

# Immediately following Statewide Meeting:

# 2013 Iowa AFS Annual Meeting

# When: February 12-13, 2013

Where: Honey Creek Resort State Park

\*\*more information will be sent out in January\*\*

# CALL FOR PAPERS

2013 Iowa AFS Annual Meeting February 12-13, 2013 Honey Creek Resort State Park



Natural resource professionals in Iowa will meet to share new research, management experiences, and valuable insight of fisheries issues.

If you would like to present or submit a poster please contact: Andy Otting ~ andy.otting@dnr.iowa.gov

# COLE HARTY, ISU SUBUNIT PRESIDENT

This fall, the AFS Student Subunit has been keeping busy with volunteer work, group sampling activities, individual research projects, and more. We are excited to welcome the new fisheries professor, Dr. Michael Weber, to ISU. At our next meeting (Dec. 6) Dr. Weber will attend and give a small introduction to the students. Tim Parks, a graduate student, will also be presenting some of his work.

The Subunit's members have volunteered to assist DNR sampling across the state on numerous occasions this semester. Many members participated in paddlefish tagging and game fish rescue on the Missouri River during September and October with DJ Vogeler.





Rathbun was another volunteer destination where members assisted DNR staff with walleye marking in November. The Subunit looks forward to the many volunteer opportunities that past spring semesters have brought. Gill netting, fyke netting, and telemetry are high on the list!



In early November a fisheries techniques demonstration event was held at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station farm pond.

Many members were introduced to electrofishing during the event. The Subunit sampled black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and hybrid striped bass. Weight and length measurements were taken from all sampled fish and data will be analyzed in the near future.



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Once again, we are ordering t-shirts this year. T-shirt cost will be \$15 and the shirts will have a bowfin on the back. The t-shirts will be sold at the upcoming Iowa Chapter AFS meeting.



The Subunit still has a large number of "Fishes of Conservation Need" posters to distribute. Many of you may have seen these posters at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Several field offices and county conservation stations have these posters displayed at their facilities. We would certainly like to get posters to offices that do not have them. These posters are geared toward fisheries education, so the more we can distribute and display, the better! There are currently two additional posters that we would like to print in the three poster series, but we plan to finish them as funding allows. The next two posters are titled as follows: "Fishes of Iowa Lakes and Ponds" and "Fishes of Iowa Rivers and Streams."



#### LATERAL LINES

## IOWA'S URBAN TROUT PROGRAM

#### ~JEFF KOPASKA, KIM HAWKINS - IOWA DNR FISHERIES RESEARCH

lowa's Urban Trout Program began in the 1980's. It originally encompassed cities in eastern lowa near lowa's "trout country" utilizing barrow pits and small impoundments. In 2004, the program was revamped and expanded throughout lowa in an effort to introduce trout fishing to more anglers. These stockings provided easy access fishing opportunities in areas of lowa that cannot support trout during the summer months, mainly focusing on small impoundments and pits close to lowa's urban areas.

Since 2004, additional sites have been added across the state. Sites are selected paralleling the guidelines stated in the 2007 AFS Symposium on Urban and Community Fishing. DNR fisheries staff partner with city entities or county conservation boards to create an event for the stocking.



The site must have good parking, adequate access, and be near a highly populated area. (Fig. 1)





The DNR and accompanying entity create a marketing campaign to increase interest in the program and event. At the event, the public is educated about lowa's trout program as well as other fisheries related topics. DNR law enforcement is also present to provide assistance.



In 2010, evaluation of the expanded trout program began. Through Iowa's licensing system (ELSI), data could be extracted to track of the program's progress/success.



Fig. 1- Current stocking locations—green dot indicates location of water body stocked.

Historic Urban Trout Program stockings

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A steady increase was seen in trout license sales after the revamping of the program in 2004. (fig 2)

As of 2011, 24% of new trout privilege purchasers were new to the fishing license database. These customers were either new anglers, or anglers that had not bought a fishing license since the state moved to the ELSI system in 2000.

	COUNTY		YEAR OF 1 <sup>ST</sup>	
	000111	OLOGEOT OTT	STOCKING	
Blue Pit	Cerro Gordo	Mason City	1990	
Heritage Pond	Dubuque	Dubuque	1992	
North Prairie Lake	Black Hawk	Cedar Falls	1993	
Pappar Lako	Warron	Indianola/Des	2004	
	warren	Moines	2004	
Lake of the Hills	Scott	Davenport	2006	
Bacon Creek	Woodbury	Sioux City	2006	
Big Lake West	Pottawattamie	Council Bluffs	2006	
DMACC	Polk	Ankeny/N. Des Moines/Altoona	2008	
Petoka**- opposite DMACC	Polk	Ankeny/N. Des Moines/Altoona	2009	
Wilson Lake	Lee	Fort Madison/ Burlington	2010	
Discover Pond	Muscatine	Muscatine	2010	
Ada Hayden Pond	Story	Ames	2010	
Prairie Park	Linn	Cedar Rapids	2010	
Scharnberg Pond	Clay	Spencer	2010	
Ottumwa Park Pond	Wapello	Ottumwa	2011	
Moorland Park Pond	Webster	Fort Dodge	2011	
Sand Lake	Johnson	Iowa City	2011	

Seven percent of the new trout privilege purchasers have been youth (under 16). From 2010 to 2011, there was a 10% increase in sales (~3800 trout stamps). 81% of the ~3800 gain came from the urban stocking areas. Recruitment has increased due to the urban stockings. An interesting finding has been that the greatest increase in license sales has not corresponded to the initial fall stockings in new locations. License sales data shows that people seem to be delaying their trout privilege purchase until the time that they acquire their new fishing license for the following year.(Fig. 3 & 4).



**Fig. 3** - Number of Trout licenses sold pre stocking vs. post stocking to +1 year stocking after 2004 stockings.

Locations	% Change after 1 yr
Des Moines Metro (2004)	+ 148
Lake Of The Hills (2006)	+ 122
Bacon Creek (2006)	+ 372
Big Lake West (2006)	+ 269
Wilson Lake (2010)	+ 150
Discovery Pond (2010)	+ 133
Prairie Park (2010)	+ 114
Scharnberg Pond (2010)	+ 194
Ottumwa Park Pond (2011)	+ 92

Fig. 4 - Percent Change of trout license sales after first year of stocking

Retention is measured by an angler buying a license for 5 consecutive years. Overall retention of trout anglers in Iowa is about average when compared to the US average. (Fig. 5) The urban trout program has not faired as well. (Fig. 6)



Retention (5 years, %)

**Fig. 5**- Percent of anglers that have bought a license or trout privilege 5 out of 5 years compared to US Anglers.

Location (first year stocked)	Every Year Purchasers	%
Des Moines Metro (2004)	400 / 16,548	2.4%
Davenport (2006)	61/4,869	1.3%
Council Bluffs (2006)	49 / 2,246	2.2%
Sioux City (2006)	67 / 1,875	3.6%

Fig. 6- Retention of urban trout stocking in Iowa.

Locations	Fish Cost (\$)	New License Sales (\$)
Des Moines Metro	20400	58421
Lake Of The Hills	8000	28626
Bacon Creek	6000	6444
Big Lake West	4000	10257
Wilson Lake	4000	3873
Discovery Pond	4000	4491
Prairie Park	8000	17182
Scharnberg Pond	6000	5779
Ottumwa Park Pond	6000	5190
Total Program	\$66,400	\$140,263

Fig. 7 - Cost per location of Iowa's Urban Trout Program (2011 data)

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The Iowa Urban Trout Program has been deemed a success. It has been a great recruiting tool not only to introduce anglers to trout fishing, but to introduce fishing in general to urban communities. It has also been found to be cost effective (Fig. 7). Retention will be the main focus for the upcoming years. For now, the DNR is supplying a great opportunity and assisting in making great memories.











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## **BLACK HAWK LAKE RENOVATION**

~BEN WALLACE, IOWA DNR FISH MANAGEMENT



As the dry weather from the last half of 2011 carried over into 2012, the Black Hawk Fish Management staff started to look hard into the possibility of a chemical renovation of Black Hawk Lake. The lake was nine inches below crest going into the spring of 2012, but a renovation was only possible if the lake was more than two feet below crest. As the drought continued throughout the summer, the Black Hawk Staff, with the help of Lewis Bruce, started mapping waterbodies within the watershed of Black Hawk Lake to make preparations for a renovation if presented with the opportunity. On August 21<sup>st</sup> the final decision was made to plan and execute a chemical renovation of Black Hawk Lake. A public meeting was held on August 30th to present and discuss the Department's intentions of renovating Black Hawk Lake. The concept of a lake renovation was met with unanimous support from the public.

After the public meeting five siphons were built to draw additional water off of the lake to provide a little "insurance" in case of a big rain event. The siphons moved 3500 GPM and helped take the lake down an additional seven inches. Watershed treatments began shortly after the public meeting as well. A total of 5 ponds with a total volume of 213 acrefeet were treated. Additionally, all 11 miles of Carnarvon Creek, which is the only tributary to Black Hawk Lake, was walked by local and Cold Springs fisheries staff. Except for a few pools that were found and treated, Carnarvon Creek was dry.

Promiscuous fishing was opened up in September and many anglers took advantage of the opportunity. Commercial harvesters came in, and over the course of about 5 weeks, removed around 130,000 pounds of fish. During this time Black Hawk staff conducted a fish salvage effort. Most of the fish went to Black Hawk Pits, which was renovated early, to provide some local recreational fishing while Black Hawk Lake is turning around over the next couple years. Some fish were also taken to Arrowhead Lake. These fish were mostly largemouth bass and channel catfish. All fish that were transported were sorted before they went into the distribution tank on Black Hawk Lake, and then sorted again before they were stocked into Black Hawk Pits and Arrowhead Lake to make sure that no undesirable species were moved.

The chemical needed to treat the watershed of Black Hawk Lake came from the storage facility at Spirit Lake and from the Greene County Conservation Board. It soon became clear that the 150 barrels of chemical that we ordered from Prentiss might not be delivered in time to complete the renovation before ice-up so we started searching elsewhere. On Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> we received 75 barrels from Prentiss. On Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> we drove to Savanna, Illinois and picked up 30 barrels of rotenone from the USFWS. On Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> we drove to Ames to meet Mark Flammang who brought us an additional 16 barrels. Needless to say, we had to write a lot of "IOU's" for the chemical that we used to treat Black Hawk Lake.

The chemical renovation of Black Hawk Lake was carried out November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. 3,720 gallons (124 barrels) of rotenone were applied in less than 4 hours on the day of the application. Aside from hitting a few rocks out in the lake with lower units, everything went very smooth.

There were many onlookers and, to my knowledge, there was no negative feedback. Upon examining the shoreline the following days, just about all of the dead the fish that washed to shore were gizzard shad, common carp, bigmouth buffalo, bullhead, and channel catfish. Aside from the channel catfish, there were very few sportfish. The Black Hawk LPA purchased and served lunch for all of the workers the day of the renovation.

The week after the renovation we conducted fish pick-up. It took a day and a half to complete the clean-up. It was estimated that somewhere between 120,000 to 140,000 pounds of fish were picked up. The vast majority of the shoreline was covered by workers pitch-forking fish into UTVs, which dumped the fish into a tractor bucket, and the fish were then loaded into a dump truck and dump trailer. The dead fish were dumped in a field 1 mile south of the lake. A few days later these fish were spread and disked into the ground. This was done with ESD's approval. Unusually warm weather and high winds caused thousands of pounds of fish to surface and wash ashore after the initial fish pick up and another effort to pick up fish was made on December 5<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated that another 100,000 pounds of fish were picked up. Again, these fish were taken to the same field and used as fertilizer.

Water samples were taken the day after the renovation and sent to the Hygienics lab to test the rotenone concentration. The average concentration of active rotenone from the three samples was 156  $\mu$ g/L. This equates to just over 3 ppm of the 5% rotenone formulation. According to the label between 2 and 4 ppm are needed to treat carp and bullheads in highly eutrophic lakes with rich organic matter.

The Black Hawk Lake renovation project was a prime example of how the fisheries bureau acts when called upon, works together toward a common goal, and displays professionalism in nasty situations (i.e., picking up dead fish). There was a lot of uncertainty as to when the renovation would actually happen because of the availability of chemical and I appreciate everyone's willingness to adapt to multiple date changes on short notice. This was also a great example of how we can work with and rely on other bureaus to help get big projects done. I am truly grateful and appreciative to everyone that helped. Whether it was applying chemical, picking up fish, transporting chemical, or working behind the scenes to find money and resources to get the job done, every bit of help was much needed and appreciated. The citizens of Lake View and the Black Hawk Lake area are extremely grateful for our efforts and were very impressed with the hard work and professionalism put forth by all of the fisheries staff that helped with the project.

Black Hawk Renovation "by the numbers": Total Volume Treated: 2,913 acre-feet Total Gallons Rotenone Applied: 3,884 Agencies Involved: 3 (Iowa DNR, NRCS, USFWS) Total Personnel Involved: 61 Number of DNR Bureaus Involved: 6 (fisheries, wildlife, parks, law enforcement, ESD, watershed improvement section) Number of Fisheries Offices Involved (including Des Moines office): 21 Number of Retired Fish Guys: 3

Pounds of Fish Removed by Commercial Anglers: 130,000 Pounds of Fish Removed by Fisheries Clean-up: 220,000 Pounds of Fish Removed by Fish Salvage: 4,000 Total Pounds of Fish Tissue Removed from Black Hawk Lake (estimated): 354,000 Estimated Pounds of Phosphorus Removed via Fish Removal: 8,071 Estimated Pounds of Nitrogen Removed via Fish Removal: 37,170 VOLUME 30, ISSUE 3

## **BLACK HAWK LAKE RENOVATION PHOTOS**

~BEN WALLACE, IOWA DNR FISHERIES



DJ Vogeler and Greg Simmons prepare to spread some holiday cheer.



George Scholten raising a master angler buffalo in the air during the fish pick-up.



Dead fish amassing on the shoreline the day of the renovation.



Dumping fish from a UTV into the tractor bucket. Fish were then dumped into dump trucks and trailers and taken offsite.



Dead fish piled up in the field where they were used as fertilizer. Tom Rohde stands in the background for size comparison. The second round of the fish pick-up effort yielded a similar sized "pile o' death."

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## Forays into Northwestern Iowa Yield New Records of Plains Topminnow (Fundulus sciadicus) and More Data on Pugnose Shiner (Notropis anogenus)

Konrad Schmidt St. Paul. MN ssminnow@usfamily.net **Robert Hrabik Old Appleton, MO** Robert.Hrabik@mdc.mo.gov

In late June 2011, NANFA members Bob Hrabik and Konrad Schmidt assisted the lowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in collecting Plains Topminnow in northwestern Iowa. The species had not been reported

since 1941 and was presumed extirpated. John Olson (IDNR) coordinated the trip and covered expenses for what he called his "hired guns." Bob was familiar with Plains Topminnow habitat in both Nebraska and Missouri while employed as a fisheries biologist with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Kon gained similar insight as the former Nongame Fish Specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Before the surveys began, John recruited local Bureau of Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff to assist with the effort. Kon preselected several potential sampling sites using aerial photos of the Rock and Little Rock Rivers. From June 27-29, with the enthusiastic assistance of several voung fisheries interns, Plains Topminnows were found at four of 14 sites. Three sites were on the



Plains Topminnow site–Kanaranzi Creek (Lyon County, Iowa)

#### Photos by John Olson Iowa DNR

Rock River and one on Kanaranzi Creek; all were in Lyon County. None were found in the Little Rock River where the last specimen had been reported. These collections represent the first records in Iowa in 70 years.





Plains Topminnow site localities

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Kon and Bob seining Pugnose Shiners in Lake Okoboji (Dickinson County, IA)

#### Iowa's "Great Lakes"

Midway during the lowa foray, we embarked on one more adventure. Dr. Megan McCusker (University of Toronto) has been conducting a range-wide genetics study of Pugnose Shiner- IDNR collected six specimens for Dr. McCusker from Lake Okoboji in 2010, but she requested more tissues to further study this only known population in the Missouri River Drainage. John, Bob, and Kon caravanned to Iowa's "Great Lakes" where we met up with our never-take-a break interns again and with Mike Hawkins, IDNR Fisheries Biologist. NANFA member Chris Vrba from Pocahontas, IA, also joined us. After a half-day effort, five Pugnose Shiners were collected, but it took 12 people dragging a 50-foot seine through dense vegetation. The key to capturing this species was to lift the seine off the bottom of the lake and drag it through the water such that it operated like the mid-water or surface trawl. We were fortunate to have a lot of intern help to accomplish the task. Our catch of this species 13 increased considerably utilizing this method. Bob, who is always the ichthyologist at heart, also preserved specimens and tissues of Banded Killifish (Fundulus diaphanus) for his fish collection. Bob and Kon did suffer a minor mishap from treading in the depths of Lake Okoboji. The first report of swimmer's itch for the season was confirmed the week before and shortly after arriving home, we both found ourselves covered head to toe with swimmer's itch. However, both were mild cases and our red bumps and itch subsided in a couple of days. A small price to pay for the awesome experience we had. However, we do wonder how the interns fared?



Genetic Analyses Summary of Pugnose Shiner Samples

Dr. Megan McCusker - University of Toronto

Our study included samples from Ontario, New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa. The primary genetic division in our dataset was between eastern and western samples, specifically those from Minnesota and Iowa versus all others. Although one possibility to account for this division is that the Pugnose Shiner occupied two distinct glacial refugia during the last glaciation, the extent of the genetic divergence between eastern and western samples was more consistent with survival in a single glacial refuge (the Mississippian Refugium). We speculate

that the genetic divergence observed today is related to discrete post-glacial colonization routes taken from the Mississippian Refuge, with one flowing northward into present day Iowa and Minnesota and one flowing eastward into present day Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, and New York. The Okoboji population is significantly different from all other populations throughout the Pugnose Shiner's range indicating this population is distinct. Given the relative geographical isolation of Okoboji Lake with respect to the species' range and the limited movement; however, this was not at all surprising. Okoboji Lake samples were most closely related to Fish Lake (Le Sueur Co, MN), which was the most southern of all Minnesota samples included in this study. Although we only analyzed nine individuals

from Okoboji Lake, genetic diversity was comparable to that found elsewhere, suggesting that despite very limited historical sampling of the Pugnose Shiner in this lake, the population size may not be unusually small compared to that found throughout the range of the species.

## IN THE NEWS ~IOWA OUTDOORS

## DES MOINES RIVER HISTORY PROJECT BEGINS

More than 75 people packed into the lodge at Lacy Keosauqua State Park to hear about the history and the people who have lived along the Des Moines River in southeast Iowa for more than 10,000 years.

Lynn Alex and Cindy Petersen, from the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, discussed each of the cultures who made the Des Moines River home but concentrated on two archaeological sites in Van Buren County.

Artifacts, mounds, and pits from the Late Woodland period, about 600 AD to 1100 AD, were found at the Marriott site across the river from Bentonsport, one of many similar sites in the Des Moines River valley.

The site lies adjacent to a stone quarry of Keokuk chert, used by Native Americans in making chipped stone weapons and cutting tools. Although the primary residents at the site were Late Woodland peoples, previous visitors had utilized the quarry for thousands of years.

The second site is about 30 miles upstream, where information was discovered about the loway tribe from investigations at a site near the historical town of lowaville, between present day Eldon and Selma.

The loway had a village there from about 1765 to 1825. This well-preserved archaeological site contains remnants of house basins; a palisade or ditch enclosure measuring about 260 feet in diameter; and many pit features now filled with 200-year-old refuse. This was the last, large-sized village of the loway in what is now the State of lowa, prior to the tribe's forced migration to points west and south.

While Alex and Petersen made the presentation, they also asked for input from the attendees, many of whom are avid amateur archaeologists. Alex told the crowd that many important pieces of history are discovered by people like them and that they should be comfortable sharing information about their finds with the state office.

"We want to hear your stories, see what you have and make a record of where the artifacts were found. Some people think the state wants to take away the pieces they've found but that isn't true at all. The more information we have, the better we can piece together the story of people who have lived here," said Alex. The program held Nov. 11, is part of a series of public events exploring the importance of the Des Moines River from Eldon to Farmington.

Alex and Petersen, along with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Pathfinders RC&D, will weave the stories into interpretation along this stretch of the Des Moines River Water Trail. More information about the water trail project is available at <u>www.desmoinesriverwt.com</u>.

Anyone interested in being involved in the Des Moines River Water Trail group in Van Buren and Wapello Counties can email Pathfinders RC&D at info@pathfinders.org or call 641-472-6177.



## PURPOSE OF NEW BARRIER ON BIG CREEK: KEEP BIG FISH IN LAKE

POSTED: 09/11/2012

One of Iowa's busiest lakes should get a little more crowded and fishing groups couldn't be happier. A new physical barrier on top of the Big Creek Lake spillway should put an end to losing muskie during high water events.

"We lost a lot of muskies when Big Creek had high water in the spring of 2007," said Ben Dodd, fisheries biologist for the lowa Department of Natural Resources. "We are also losing adult walleyes in the same way."

Dodd has been working on a walleye population study in Big Creek and said within one month of tagging some of the lake's larger walleyes, one was caught in the Saylorville tailrace, and several months later another was caught nearly 100 miles upstream on the Des Moines River in Fort Dodge. News that fish are leaving the lake didn't surprise those in the fishing community.

"Big Creek was not doing what it should for walleye and muskies," said Ron White, of Ankeny, a member of Central lowa Anglers a multi species fishing club. "We were not seeing near the big walleye in the lake and we were catching muskie below the Saylorville tailrace."

Members of Central Iowa Anglers, Recycled Fish, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Big Creek State Park and Fisheries collaborated to install the barrier in late July. This barrier is a system of 1-5/8 inch horizontal bars spaced 2 inches apart, 29 inches tall on top of the spillway. Based on the hydrographs, the barrier should work for 95 percent of the storm events.



"We will have to wait for the first big storm to tell whether the barrier is going to function properly," Dodd said. "We installed an experimental test section in 2011 and the vegetation



passed through the barrier very well." The barrier should prevent most muskie and walleye over 17 inches from leaving Big Creek. "We're pretty optimistic about this as far as preventing fish from escaping," White said. "It's got to help."

Previous attempts at a physical barrier did not work because the barrier would serve as a strainer, catching debris heading over the spillway. Dodd learned of a barrier that has been keeping fish in Kinkaid Lake, near Carbondale, III., for years, with little to no maintenance.

The fish barrier was jointly funded by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The structure cost about \$8,000 which will be offset by Recycled Fish who will donate a percentage of the proceeds from a September fish-a-thon event.



# IN THE NATIONAL NEWS



## **Man Finds Lost Finger in Trout**

<sub>By</sub> Abby Phillip Sep 26, 2012 5:06pm Fisherman Nolan Calvin and a few friends thought they would end their day on Idaho's Priest Lake by settling in for a good meal of smoked trout.

Instead, he made a stomachturning discovery – a human finger inside a trout's stomach.

"A friend of mine caught the fish. And as soon as I gutted it, I opened it and saw the human finger," Calvin told ABC News.

The mysterious pinky finger belonged to a human's left hand and was nearly perfectly preserved inside the fish, Calvin said.

It had been in the lake for more than two months before Calvin found it more than eight miles away from where it initially separated from its owner.

Thinking quickly, Calvin threw the finger and the fish intestines in a bag, put it all on ice and searched for enough cell phone signal to contact the police. All the while, he hoped that the body it belonged to was a victim of a boating accident, not a homicide.

"A lot of things go through your mind," Calvin said. "We were hoping it was more of a boat accident than a body."

"Its just one of those things. ... I've never found a finger before in my life," added Calvin, who served in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield in Iraq.

The finger belonged to 31-year-old Haans Galassi, who in mid-July was out wakeboarding with friends on Priest Lake when his hand became trapped in the towline that connected his wakeboard to the boat. He wasn't able to free it in time, and in seconds, the tightened rope severed nearly all of his fingers.

"I pulled my hand out of the water, I looked down and all four fingers were basically gone," Galassi told ABC News. "It was carnage. It looked like a 'Braveheart' movie. It was just flesh and bone."

Investigators later were able to trace the finger back to Galassi using fingerprint analysis.

Galassi said there wasn't a lot of blood and only a man-



ageable amount of pain, but paramedics rushed him to the nearest hospital by helicopter. All that he had left on the hand was half an index finger, half a pointer finger and a thumb.

Months later, Sgt. Gary Johnston in Bonner County, Idaho, sheriff's office would be the one to deliver the news to Galassi that at least one of his fingers had finally been found.

"I called him up and said, 'Well, are you sitting down? Are you ready for this?'" Johnston told ABC News. "He actually had a real good sense of humor about it. He took it really well."

On the other end of the line, Galassi couldn't believe that someone had actually caught the fish that had eaten his finger in the deep and sprawling lake.

"I never expected anybody would ever find my fingers," Galassi said. "I just expected that the fish would eat them. They're gone. Sayonara. They're at the bottom of the lake. They're fish food."

"I told [Johnston], 'You guys have probably been looking for a body, haven't you?'" Galassi said. "That's what I would think."

Johnston, a 21-year police force veteran, said the incident is among the strangest things he's encountered.

"It's ranking right in there with the top 10, there's no doubt about it," he said. "I've still got three more fingers out there that haven't been caught yet, so I don't know what's going to be next."

# READING MATERIAL

### NORTHERN PIKE: Ecology, Conservation, and Management History

By Rodney B. Pierce

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

University of Minnesota Press | 224 pages | 2012

ISBN 978-0-8166-7954-6 | cloth | \$40.00

Based on research in Minnesota by leading pike specialist Rodney B. Pierce, *Northern Pike* is the most complete collection of information to date on the species, for everyone from scientists and conservation biologists to general readers and recreational anglers. Pierce's study synthesizes the long history of northern pike management, describing recent efforts to better understand and manage this renowned species.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

**Rodney B. Pierce** has worked as a fisheries research biologist at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, for more than twenty-five years, specializing in northern pike biology and management.



For more information, including the table of contents, visit the book's webpage:

http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/northern-pike



## **Roughing It**

Author: Mark Twain

First Published: 1872, autobiography

*Roughing It* is a partly fictional account of Mark Twain's travel to the Nevada Territory and to California, his varied life there, colorful personalities he encountered, and his visit to the Hawaiian Islands (then called the Sandwich Islands). Interspersed throughout are factual and semifactual journalistic reports as well as tall tales. The book covers Twain's stagecoach trip with his brother Orion Clemens, the newly appointed secretary of the Nevada Territory, from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Carson City, Nevada (July to August, 1861); Twain's unsuccessful efforts to stake a timber claim and to prospect for silver (until August, 1862); his reporting and freelance writing for the *Territorial Enterprise* of Virginia City, Nevada (until May, 1864); his reporting for the San Francisco Morning Call (1864 to 1865); his trip to Hawaii (March to August, 1866); his work in San Francisco (until December, 1866); and—much more briefly—his return to the East Coast through the isthmus of Panama (December, 1866, to January, 1867).



## Application form

## **Fisheries Project Grant**

Iowa Chapter – American Fisheries Society

Project Name:
Project Description:
Attach map or supplementary information
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Project Location:
Water Body:
Address:
County:
Start Date: End Date:
Project Personnel:
Fisheries Benefits:
Iowa Chapter Representative:
Amount needed: \$ Total project cost: \$
Money will be used for:
Up to \$1,000.00 per project.
Approved by Excom Committee Date:

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The Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is offering to help finance worthwhile fisheries related projects. The completed application form needs to be transferred to the Iowa Chapter President by an Iowa Chapter Member.

Project Name - Give the project name.

Project Description – Give a brief review of the intended project. Include the work to be done, the methods and material that will be used in the project.

Attach a map and any supplementary information that you think will help the Excom Committee evaluate the project.

Project Location – Where will the work be done.

Start and End dates for the project. Month and calendar year will do.

Project Personnel – Include organizations and or individuals who will be directly involved in the work.

Fisheries Benefits – A very important part of the project should be direct benefits to lowa's fishery. How does the project help and who is the beneficiary?

Iowa Chapter Representative – All projects need to have and Iowa Chapter member as a sponsor.

Amount needed – Tell us how much you need and the total project cost.

Money will be used for – Be as specific as you can. Will the money be used to hire people, buy, equipment, be seed money for a grant, etc.

There is a \$1,000.00 limit for each project.

The Excom Committee of the Iowa Chapter will review the application and approve or reject the request.