

Dakota/Iowa Chapter Joint Meeting Arrangements Finalized

The **Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center in Sioux Falls, SD** will be the location for the annual meetings of the Iowa and Dakota Chapters of the American Fisheries Society on **February 19-21, 2008**.

The Ramkota is reserving 100 rooms for February 19-20 at special rates for meeting attendees. These rates are:

\$46.50 single/\$66.50 double occupancy for South Dakota employees
\$69.99 single/double occupancy for students (only 15 rooms at this rate are available on a first call basis)
\$79.99 single/double occupancy for all other attendees

You must call the Sioux Falls Ramkota directly at (605) 336-0650 to reserve your rooms. Make sure you specify you are with the American Fisheries Society to receive the special rates. Students should consider booking four to a room to maximize the number we can accommodate at the special student rate.

All room reservations should be made by January 29, 2008. At that time the remaining blocked rooms will be released for resale. However, the special rates will be available through February 19 if there are rooms available.

Check-in time at the Ramkota is after 3 PM and check-out time is 11 AM. The hotel also has a large, indoor water park so bring your swim suits if you want. There are complimentary admission wristbands with each room reservation. More information on the Ramkota can be found on their website at <http://siouxfalls.ramkota.com/>.

Registration for the meeting will be \$65.00 per person and will include a Tuesday night social, Wednesday and Thursday morning and afternoon breaks, Wednesday lunch buffet, and Wednesday night awards banquet dinner. Wednesday and Thursday morning breakfasts are on your own.

The Ramkota is offering the Chapters a number of comps based on the number of rooms reserved. They also require a 48 hour notice on the number of people attending to make the food preparations. For these reasons, we ask that you contact Sec/Treasurer Bryan Hayes (bryan.hayes@dnr.iowa.gov) if you plan to attend the meeting. Please make every effort to do this by February 13. It could save the Chapter hundreds of dollars.

I hope to see you in Sioux Falls and I'm especially excited about swapping fish stories with our colleagues from North and South Dakota.

Mike Hawkins, President, Iowa Chapter AFS