WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU

For most of us the field season is in full swing. I’m sure everyone is glad to get outside and stretch their legs, get sunburned, and enjoy the outdoors. Our field seasons come on the heels of one of the best winters I remember. I say the best because it was about perfect for all of our resources. It started with an easy beginning for big game - light snows and good fall green up. It was also good for fish in that we received late snows that filled our snowpack to the brim. Mule deer fawn survival is on track to the best since monitoring was started many years ago and there is ample water to usher smolts to the ocean, return adult Chinook back to the Snake River, and fill the state’s reservoirs. The best of both worlds indeed. In the words of the famous Luchador Rev. Sergio Gutierrez Benitez (Friar Tormenta) from Nacho Libre “It’s the Best”! How often do we get “The Best” experience at work or at home? Once in a while the stars line up just right and we’re able to run on all cylinders without a hiccup but, of course, those times can be fleeting and there are times when things aren’t so smooth. Upon reflection of the “best” times there are certain things that are clear: we were motivated, excited, and focused. Unlike “The Best” winter that we just experienced that was the result of the vagaries of the environment we cannot control, we can control, or manage, our personal experience so that we can enjoy ourselves more fully. How you say? Well I’m no expert but there are certain things we can all do to improve our attitudes at work. Think of others in all that you do – your employees, co-workers, bosses, cooperators. Are you attending to their needs? Providing them with the support, information, and encouragement they need? Are you letting unattended tasks nag at you when taking a bit time to address them would help clear your desk and mental anxiety? Are we demanding “The Best” out of ourselves while at work? Each of us has enjoyed that feeling of walking out the office after a productive week – the chains are off and the weekend is ahead of us unconstrained. Damn it feels good when you can finally let things truly go. With spring cleaning in the air let us all commit to cleaning ourselves up as well. Refocus at work – spend some time with your staff and co-workers and recommit to them. Turn your smart phone off at night and look at your loved ones in the eyes – work can wait until you’re in the office. Kick the dog, dig into the garden, clean your dog’s winter “treats” left in the yard. Let it all go. To the person - our chapter members have some of the best jobs going. We are all blessed to be where we are and we should look at each day on the job as if it were our very first. Remember the first day you walked into your new office and were so thankful for the opportunity before you? It was “The Best” and it is still the best. Don’t let our natural tendency to fall into a routine and become complacent, entitled, or bored. Your job and your attitude are what you make of it. For proof – think about those around you that inspire you. Are they grumpy, lazy, unable to get along with others? No – they are typically the most productive, pleasant, and sincere people you know. Be that person – be the inspirer – the leader – be “The Best”.

Be safe out there, Jim Chandler is setting up a great meeting for next spring and we want everyone’s smiling face there!

— Tom Curet

Native Fish Committee Annual Field Trip
September 19-21, 2014
See page 3 for details
2015 Annual Meeting

Idaho Chapter 2015 Annual Meeting to be held in Boise, Idaho March 4 to 6. Meeting theme is Idaho Large Rivers: history, management and restoration. **We are seeking your suggestions for annual meeting session topics and Continuing Education workshop ideas.** Send your ideas to a committee chair or President-Elect (jchandle@idahopower.com). Save the dates and plan on participating.

Outstanding Chapter Award

Idaho Chapter receives Outstanding Chapter Award for 2014. The award is given to the Western Division Chapter that exhibits a commitment to the mission of the Society by actively working to achieve the goals set forth in the AFS Strategic Plan. The Idaho Chapter has received this honor on three other occasions; 1982, 1987, and 1991. It is a validation that our Chapter is doing good things for fisheries resources and our profession. Keep up the good work! Past President, Joe Dupont, accepted this award on behalf of the Chapter at Western Division Annual meeting held in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Well Done Idaho Chapter!
Native Fish Committee, Annual Field Trip

**Steelhead, Chinook Salmon, and Sculpin**

**September 19-21, 2014**

**Orofino, Idaho**

Each year the Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society’s Native Fish Committee holds an annual field trip focused on one or more of Idaho’s unique native fishes. This year, the field trip will focus on three (or more) of Idaho’s fishes native to the Clearwater River basin: Steelhead, Chinook salmon, and Sculpin.

Yes, Steelhead and Chinook were listed first to get your attention, but the main reason for this trip is to sample some of the Clearwater Basin’s native sculpin as part of SCULPIN-QWEST 2014. Mike Young (RMRS-Missoula) and colleagues recently used DNA barcoding to describe the new species cedar sculpin (*Cottus schitsuumsh*) in northern Idaho. That’s really cool, but there’s a catch - their data suggested that there may be even more un-described sculpin species in Idaho, and they are crowd-sourcing sculpin tissue samples (or specimens) to help with a broader understanding of the taxonomy (or at least genetic diversity) of *Cottus* in the west. This field trip will focus on sculpin sampling in the Clearwater Basin to help provide Mike and colleagues with sculpin tissue samples from an under-represented basin.

OK, now to the steelhead and Chinook salmon. These are two of Idaho’s most charismatic native fishes. On Friday (for those who can make it) we’ll take a guided tour of the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery lead by Nate Weise, Assistant Hatchery Manager. The tour will give you an overview of the production cycle of these fishes. There will be time to fish for steelhead on the Clearwater River itself (the Chinook fishery is only open near Lewiston)!

There is no charge to participate in the workshop. We will camp the night of September 19th and 20th at either the BLM Pink House Campground or Ahsahka (Hocus) Boat Ramp (which has camping); details to be determined. It is expected that you’ll bring your own food, water, and camping gear. Alternative accommodations can be found in Orofino, Idaho.

For more information, please call Dan Dauwalter, ICAFS Native Fish Committee Chair, at 208-345-9800.
The Public Education committee has been busy reviewing and awarding Trout in the Classroom grants for fish release field trips. We awarded $1711 to allow classrooms to get students out to local lakes, rivers and streams. Activities on the field trips included release of their classroom trout, fishing, hatchery and nature area tours, streambank restoration, and aquatic ecology lessons.

Classrooms that received grants:
Coeur d’Alene Charter School
Filer High School
Idaho City High School
Jefferson Elementary School, Jerome
McDonald Elementary School, Moscow
Silver Sage Elementary School, Meridian
Willow Creek Elementary, Nampa

Please contact the Public Education committee chairperson, Lauri Monnot if you would like to learn more.
Mentors & Mentees

The Mentoring Committee continues to “match” Mentors and Mentees together via a web based system that allows both Mentors and individuals desiring Mentoring to sign up and prove information about their current situations and be “matched” up with a suitable Mentor/Mentee according to their responses to a series of questions (http://www.idahoafs.org/mentoring.php). This initiative has been operating since January of 2014 and the IDAFS Mentoring Committee has already “matched” up students and young professionals to Mentors from Idaho, Washington, California, and Oregon. This exciting new initiative shows some real promise to bridge the gap between fish professionals and the up and comers in the fisheries profession. It is providing the mechanism for both Mentors and Mentees a place to sign up and provide valuable information about their situations, thus, maximizing the potential for a successful Mentoring relationship. To date, more than half of the pairings have involved a female student or young professional, which speaks volumes to the success of promoting diversity within AFS and the profession. Go the website and sign up today to be a mentor and/or mentee.
Stream of Dreams

The Chapter helps sponsor Salmon Valley Stewardship Stream of Dreams project. The Stream of Dreams helps educate students in the Salmon schools about fish, migration, life cycles, riverine ecosystem, and the importance of watersheds; and to create a beautiful dimensional fish mural on the cyclone fences bordering the school grounds along Hwy. 93 South. The mural included over 500 hand painted, life size fish that will be an impressive sight, defining the Salmon community and welcoming travelers.
Congratulations to our 2014 Scholarship and Grant Winners:

ICAFS Graduate Scholarship ($1000) – Carson Watkins
ICAFS Undergraduate Scholarship ($1000) – Kate Wilcox
ICAFS High School Scholarship ($1000) – Emily Dymock
ICAFS Student Training Opportunity and Project (TOP) Grant ($750) – Kate Behn
Susan B. Martin Scholarship ($2000) – Elizabeth Ng
Ted Bjorn Graduate Scholarship – Marika Dobos and Zach Klein
Ted Bjorn Graduate Scholarship – Katie McBaine and Kate Wilcox

Announcements…

T-shirt artwork design contest, submittals due October 15th (icafs.fundraising@gmail.com). It is time for new ICAFS t-shirts. These shirts have been great for promoting the Chapter and demonstrating pride in our AFS organization. We are looking for a design that will cover the full front or back of a T-shirt.

Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society has money to help advance fisheries and aquatic science and promote the development of fisheries professionals. Proposals should be submitted to committee chairs.

Idaho Chapter American Fisheries Society FaceBook site coming soon. Send Lance Hebdon, lance.hebdon@idfg.idaho.gov, suggested postings.

River Restoration NorthWest is gearing up for the 14th Annual River Restoration Symposium at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson Washington February 3-5, 2015! We have issued a call for Abstracts and Session Proposals. To get all the details please visit our website at www.rrnw.org. Session Proposals are due August 16th. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are due September 14th.
The EXCOM wants your ideas …

Please do not hesitate to contact any EXCOM Member about questions or ideas

This is your Chapter!