

OCAFS Activity Report for NCD Briefing Book, December 2007

TO: Stu Shipman, President, North Central Division

FROM: Andy Burt, President, Ohio Chapter

DATE: December 17, 2007 (Covers Jan 07 – Dec 07)

ITO 1, Visibility:

- Ohio Chapter members have been actively involved with outreach activities that promote the fisheries profession such as judging state high school science fairs, participating in children's fishing events, and speaking to special interest/angling groups and the media.

ITO 2, Collaboration:

- The Ohio Chapter held its annual meeting in conjunction with the 47th Annual Fish and Wildlife Conference, co-hosted with the Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Society, February 2nd, 2007.
- The chapter Co-hosted with the Indiana and Michigan chapters a Tri-State meeting held February 13-14, 2007.
- Planning for the annual meeting co-sponsored with the Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Association proceeded on schedule. The 2008 conference will be held on February 1st in Columbus. The theme is "Habitat Restoration- A landscape of opportunity for Ohio's fish and wildlife" and features Hannibal Bolton of the FWS as the keynote speaker.

ITO 3, Student Outreach:

- The recipients of the Ohio Aquatic Science Scholarship were announced. Scholarships in the amounts of \$1500, \$1000, and \$600 were awarded to students attending Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie. The Ohio Chapter along with the Ohio BASS Federation, Muskies Inc. - Cleveland Chapter, Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders, and the Ohio Smallmouth Bass, The Polish Fisherman's Club, and Friends of Stone Lab all contributed to make these scholarships possible. This scholarship is applied towards room and meal fees while taking summer courses at Stone Laboratory.
- The Ohio Chapter also sponsored 2 students to attend a workshop entitled, "Workshop on Fish Sampling Techniques of Ohio's State Agencies" on October 6-7, 2007. The workshop held at Stone Laboratory was sponsored by the Ohio State University, NOAA, and Ohio Sea Grant.

ITO 4, Information Network:

- The Ohio Chapter continues to update its web page (<http://www.biosci.ohio-state.edu/~ocafs/>) and send out email notices to members.

ITO 5, Public Policy:

- The chapter passed a resolution encouraging state agencies and lawmakers to strengthen the commercial fishing regulations on Lake Erie.

MS 1, Professional Development and Recognition:

- The Ohio chapter sponsored a Life Sciences Student Forum on April 13, 2007 where undergraduate students refined their research ideas, gained confidence in their presentation skills, and networked with professionals.
- The awards for “Best Aquatic Paper” and “Best Aquatic Poster” were awarded at the annual meeting in February.
- The chapter partnered with Central Basin Steelheaders and the Cleveland Chapter of Muskies, Inc., and donated \$250 for the Ohio Aquatic Sciences Scholarships, given to students attending summer courses at OSU’s Stone Lab
- The chapter awarded five Milt Austin Aquatic Science Awards to high school students at the Ohio State Science Fair
- The chapter continued reimbursement for the cost of AFS Professional Certification for one member this year
- A workshop entitled "Statistical Aspects of Sampling Freshwater Fish Populations and Habitats" was sponsored by the Ohio Chapter in August. The workshop was taught by Dan Hayes of Michigan State University.
- The chapter completed and distributed limited copies of a DVD entitled Fisheries Management: The Science of the Seas. The DVD aimed to educate students in grades 7-12 on fish biology and how fish populations are managed by fishery professionals.

MS 2, Science-Based Information:

- The Ohio Chapter held its annual meeting in conjunction with the 46th Annual Fish and Wildlife Conference, co-hosted with the Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society and the Ohio Fish and Wildlife Management Society, February 3rd, 2006
- The chapter Co-hosted with the Indiana and Michigan chapters a Tri-State meeting to held February 13-14, 2007
- In association with the chapter’s summer meeting, members participated in a study analyzing how yellow perch fishing effectiveness and size distributions differed between hook size and hook color. The results were then presented at the chapter’s annual meeting.
- The chapter held its summer meeting at The Wilds conservation center in Southeastern Ohio in August. After presentations on aquatic research occurring at The Wilds, attendees enjoyed recreational fishing opportunities on the reclamation property.

MS 4, Diversity:

- The chapter contributed \$100 to the Equal Opportunities Section to support minority student travel to the 136th Annual AFS Meeting in Lake Placid, NY

MS 5, Strategic Plan Implementation:

- The Ohio Chapter is currently implementing updates to its bylaws and procedural manual.

AS 1, Partnerships

- Several of the Ohio Chapter members attended a workshop hosted by The League of Ohio Sportsmen and the National Wildlife Federation on November 15 to provide organizations with training and educational materials concerning the latest problems facing fish and wildlife, and what we can do about them.