



# AFA NEWS

Newsletter of the Alabama Fisheries Association

January, 2008

## FROM THE PRESIDENT Rob Andress



Ahhh...the New Year...all the promise and hope that comes with a fresh start! I'm hoping all of your resolutions and promises are still intact, and that this year brings all of you and your families the best of health and all the happiness you deserve. I also hope that all of you are making plans to attend the 2008 Annual AFA Meeting in Orange Beach, February 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't made accommodations already, room reservations must be made by this Friday, January 18, 2008 to take advantage of the reduced group rate

at Perdido Beach Resort (phone number: 800-634-8001). I'm looking forward to the student research updates from institutions across Alabama as well as the new projects and updates from all the state agencies and private businesses represented by our membership.

Dave Cline, our President-Elect, is putting the finishing touches on what will prove to be another great meeting. Under his other hat as 'webmaster', Dave has set up a link to PayPal from the 'what's new' section of the AFA home page making pre-registration for the meeting more convenient by allowing for credit and debit card payments. It is not necessary for you to set up a personal PayPal account to take advantage of the service. Regardless of the method chosen for pre-registration, be sure to comply before February 1<sup>st</sup> so that you will be able to take advantage of the t-shirt offer. If you do not pre-register before the 1<sup>st</sup> you will not receive a shirt!

As you pre-register, you will notice that meeting registration has been increased. The AFA Board and Steering Committee voted to increase registration this year in response to the survey results posted after the previous two meetings. We thank the membership for responding favorably to the survey in this regard. In spite of

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## ABOUT THE AFA

The Alabama Fisheries Association (AFA) is an organization of professionals dedicated to the development, conservation, management, and wise utilization of commercial and recreational fisheries in Alabama. The AFA promotes all branches of fishery science and related technology, with emphasis on the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish and other aquatic life. Annual membership fees are \$5.00; three-year memberships are \$15.00. Members are encouraged to purchase three-year memberships. This helps our financial stability and you will avoid any increases in dues that may occur during that time. Dues may be sent to Hugh Hammer, AFA Treasurer, Gadsden State Community College, PO Box 227, Gadsden, AL 35903-0227.

**AFA web page** – for information about AFA (and recent newsletters) point your web browser to:  
**[www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org](http://www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org)**

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generous contributions from various organizations and businesses, meeting expenses have exceeded income for the past few years. Monetary reserves have been used to maintain low registration fees, but this trend cannot continue. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

February 18<sup>th</sup>, as you pick up your registration packet and agenda, attendees who are not advisors of, or co-authors with, student presenters will be asked to judge three student talks. Evaluations will determine the recipient of the best student paper award. Your critiques will also benefit students as they prepare for future presentations.

Please make the necessary arrangements to stay for the business meeting on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. There are a couple of issues the membership will need to vote on. One will be an amendment to the by-laws concerning the target meeting date, and another will be deciding upon an option to memorialize Malcolm Pierson. Be thinking about these two topics as suggestions from the floor will be greatly appreciated before voting.

Last but not least, thank you to all the organizations and businesses that continue to provide financial contributions, door prizes and food and beverages for our annual meetings. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Looking forward to seeing you all in February!

### FROM THE SECRETARY Gina LoGiudice



After many requests over the past few years, I am happy to introduce the new AFA logo hat. It will

be a kaki colored, low profile hat, with a Velcro closure. The embroidered logo will be similar to the picture. Be sure to pick up one at this years meeting, only \$10. However, the only way to ensure you get this hot new item is to order one with your meeting registration. See you in Orange Beach.

### FROM THE TREASURER Hugh Hammer



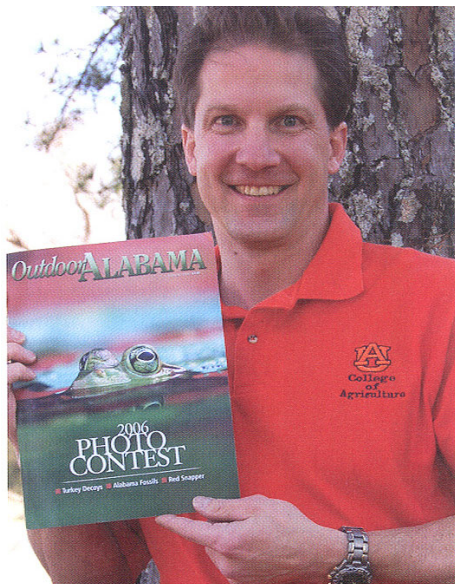
Greetings, I hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We had a great holiday despite my Ohio State Buckeyes losing in the big game to my wife's LSU Tigers (yeah, she went to LSU). The AFA remains in good standing with balances of \$4,879.54 in the Regions checking account, \$580.26 in the Regions money market, and \$14,907.90 in the Regions CD. That brings the associations total to \$21,032.40 in the bank.

We would like to welcome new members Eric Peatman, Kathleen R. El Said, and Larry Goldman to the association. I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in Orange Beach Feb 18-20. As always we would like to thank our sustaining and corporate members for their continued support of the association. See you all in Orange Beach.



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### AFA PRESIDENT-ELECT AND PROGRAM CHAIRMAN Dave Cline



### 2008 AFA ANNUAL MEETING Make Your Reservations NOW

Greetings, I hope all of you are having a great 2008. The final countdown has begun for our 2008 Annual AFA Meeting. To refresh your memory, the meeting will be held at the Perdido Beach Resort beginning at 1:00 pm on Monday February 18<sup>th</sup> and we will wrap up on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> at around noon. Once I receive ALL of the titles, and abstracts I will assign times for specific presentations so check back with the website in a few days. I am impressed by the variety of presentations that we have scheduled and there is certain to be something to pique everyone's interest. For all of you presenters, please try to deliver your presentation to our computer operator shortly after you register or at least the break prior to your session.

Below is the general agenda for the meeting.

Monday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Registration

1:00 – Opening remarks

1:20 – 2:40 Session 1 – Contributed Papers

3:00 – 4:20 Session 2 – Aquatic Plants and Water Quality

5:15 – Social

Tuesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>

8:20 – 10:40 Session 3 – Watershed and Riverine (time includes break)

10:40 – 2:20 Session 4 – Marine and Coastal (time includes lunch)

2:40 – 4:40 Session 5 – Aquaculture

6:00 - Banquet at Lester's Restaurant

Wednesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>

8:20 – 10:40 – Session 6 – Reservoirs and Small Impoundments

10:40 – 11:30 – AFA Business Meeting

11:30 – Adjourn

If you have not done so already contact the Perdido Beach Resort immediately to make your room reservations. Room rates for this years meeting are \$99 plus tax. Please make your reservations by calling 800-634-8001 and identify yourself as a participant of the Alabama Fisheries Association meeting (booking ID # 4799). If you get a recording stay on the line and the reservations desk will pick up. The Resort will accept reservations until **Friday, January 18, 2008**, at which time any unreserved rooms will be released into general availability. **The group rate will no longer be available after the cutoff date and the prevailing hotel rates will apply to any reservation(s) made after Friday, January 18, 2008.**

For your convenience we have made [online registration](http://www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org) quick and easy. Just go to the "What's New" page on the web site [www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org](http://www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org) and get started. If it is not possible or convenient for you to pay using a credit card print the pre-registration form, fill it out and get it to Gina LoGiudice ASAP. Pre-registration will guarantee you get the right size of the **free, newly designed, t-shirt with your registration**. We

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will also have new hats available with the new logo so order those when you register also.

The banquet will be held at Lester's restaurant and will have a menu similar to last year's excellent fare. I am looking forward to the meeting and visiting with each of you.

Cheers and see you soon.

### STEERING COMMITTEE

The 2007-2008 AFA Steering Committee consists of: Rob Andress, President (ADWFF), Dave Cline, President Elect (ADWFF), Stan Cook, Past President (ADWFF), Gina LoGiudice, Secretary (ADEM), Hugh Hammer, Treasurer (Gadsden State), Rob Angus, Newsletter Editor (UAB), Jason Carlee, member at large (ADWFF). We are grateful to these folks for their willingness to help steer our organization in the right direction.

### FROM THE EDITOR

**Rob Angus (on left below, posing with our esteemed past president, Ken Marion)**



Thanks to all of you who contributed to this newsletter. Without your help, the newsletter would be very slim.

**Got e-mail?** If you received this newsletter by U.S. mail, it means we don't have a current e-mail address for you. To provide us with your e-mail address, please send me ([raangus@uab.edu](mailto:raangus@uab.edu)) a brief message via e-mail. You will then be

placed on our e-mail mailing list and will receive calls for articles, other occasional announcements etc. When the next newsletter comes out, you will be sent an e-mail message with a link so you can read it on-line. Members with internet access are not sent hard copies of the newsletter. This saves AFA the cost of copying and postage and has reduced our newsletter production and mailing costs substantially.

Re: the photo. I live on a ~100 acre lake south of Birmingham. The crappie in the lake used to be stunted and not worth keeping. Ever since we started stocking threadfin shad (every couple of years), the crappie fishing has been excellent.

### ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING

The annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science will be held at Samford University on March 19-22, 2008. Information is available at:

<http://www.alabamaacademyofscience.org/>

### ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

#### Record Largemouth Bass Celebrates Twenty Year Anniversary

Size is one reason that largemouth bass are Alabama's most popular sport fish. Alabama's largest known bass, 16 lbs., 8 oz., was caught 20 years ago on November 3, 1987. T. M. (Thomas) Burgin caught the behemoth from a private pond, Mountain View Lake, in Shelby County.

Although a state record fish is hard to beat, the Alabama DCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (AWFF) has other recognitions for anglers. Anglers can be recognized for catching unusually big fish with lake record recognition and through Master and Trophy Angler recognition.

Lake records are now kept for largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass from all reservoirs and state public fishing lakes where these fish are native or have been stocked by AWFF. The largest largemouth bass and

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spotted bass from a private pond are also recognized. Since the Lake Record Program's inception this year, most lakes have not yet had a minimum size fish submitted. Rules and applications for submitting a lake record bass are posted at [www.OutdoorAlabama.com](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com). A picture of the fish against a ruler is one requirement for lake record recognition.

Two sizes of large sport fish are eligible for certificates and decals: Master Angler and Trophy Angler. The size recognition can be based upon length or weight. The length recognition is important for anglers wishing to release a fish. The species considered for master angler and trophy angler are: largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, white bass, bluegill, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, black crappie, white crappie, redear sunfish, sauger, and walleye. Lengths and weights needed for recognition are listed below. A completed application, available from [www.OutdoorAlabama.com](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com), is required, as is a picture of the fish lying against a ruler.

**MINIMUM QUALIFYING SIZES FOR ALABAMA'S ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

| SPECIES             | Master Angler              |          | Trophy Angler              |          |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
|                     | Weight Length <sup>a</sup> |          | Weight Length <sup>a</sup> |          |
|                     | (lbs.-oz.)                 | (inches) | (lbs.-oz.)                 | (inches) |
| Black Crappie       | 3-00                       | 16"      | 4-00                       | 17"      |
| Blue Catfish        | 50-00                      | 46"      | 70-00                      | 51"      |
| Bluegill            | 1-00                       | 10"      | 2-00                       | 13"      |
| Channel Catfish     | 15-00                      | 32"      | 25-00                      | 37"      |
| Flathead Catfish    | 30-00                      | 38"      | 50-00                      | 44"      |
| Hybrid Striped Bass | 12-00                      | 27"      | 16-00                      | 29"      |
| Largemouth Bass     | 8-00                       | 23"      | 10-00                      | 25"      |
| Redear Sunfish      | 1-00                       | 11"      | 2-00                       | 13"      |

|                 |       |     |       |     |
|-----------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Redeye Bass     | 0-12  | 11" | 1-00  | 13" |
| Sauger          | 2-00  | 17" | 3-00  | 19" |
| Smallmouth Bass | 5-00  | 20" | 7-00  | 22" |
| Spotted Bass    | 4-00  | 19" | 6-00  | 21" |
| Striped Bass    | 25-00 | 38" | 35-00 | 42" |
| Walleye         | 5-00  | 22" | 8-00  | 26" |
| White Bass      | 3-00  | 17" | 4-00  | 19" |
| White Crappie   | 3-00  | 16" | 4-00  | 18" |

**Alabama's Free Fishing Day Set For Saturday, June 7**

"Free Fishing Day" for Alabama is scheduled for **Saturday, June 7, 2008**, during National Fishing and Boating Week. Approved by the Alabama Legislature, the law allows an annual free day of fishing when residents and non-residents may fish without a fishing license. The specific date is set each year by the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

"Free Fishing Day is offered to introduce non-anglers to the sport of fishing and to remind former anglers of the fun they've been missing," said Stan Cook, Chief of Fisheries with the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. "It's a good time to pass on the tradition of a family fun day of fishing to Alabama's youth." National Fishing and Boating Week is June 1-8, 2008.

Although there is an exemption of the usual fishing license requirement on Free Fishing Day, some lakes may still require fees and permits. Fishing in a private pond requires the pond owner's permission.

Doug Darr  
 Aquatic Education Coordinator  
 Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

**Shoal Bass**

For your information, the Final Report for an SWG funded project entitled "Distribution,

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abundance, biology and habitat use of shoal bass and species associates in selected tributaries of the Chattahoochee River, Alabama” is available at

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/research-mgmt/State%20Wildlife%20Grants/shoal%20bass%20final%20report.pdf>

A new 2-year study by Mike Maceina to further evaluate shoal bass entitled “Conservation status of shoal bass in Alabama: distribution, abundance, stocking efficacy, and possible effects of sympatric congeneric black bass in selected tributaries of the Chattahoochee River, Alabama” began in October.

Shoal bass are doing poorly in Alabama and are really taking a major hit due to the drought.

Jim McHugh  
Wildlife Diversity Coordinator  
Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

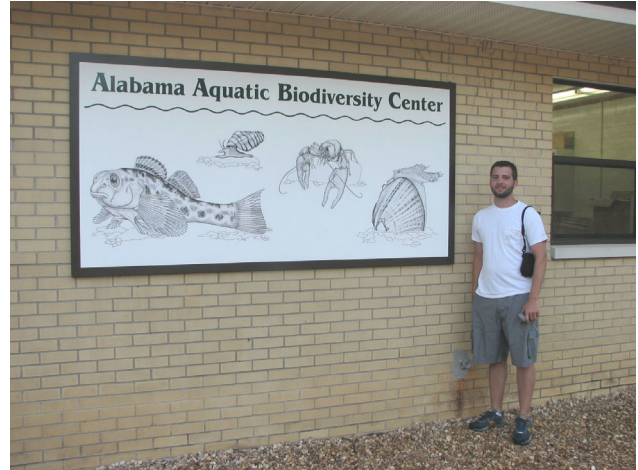
### Personnel Changes

Biologist Aid Added to AFFF Aquatic Education - Tannehill Historic State Park received another Aquatic Education staff member this summer. Ms. Brenda Morrison, Biologist Aid and former AFFF District III Secretary, joined Mr. Maurice Jackson teaching aquatic education. Aquatic education Coordinator noted, "We are pleased to have Brenda join Aquatic Education staff. Tannehill is a great location. It has a fishable stream and a pond, and it receives 200,000 visitors each year. Morrison and Jackson will teach aquatic education at the park as well as continuing their off-site educational talks. Brenda will greatly add to what Maurice is able to accomplish."

On September 16, 2007, Damon Abernethy of the Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division was promoted to the Fisheries Development Coordinator position. Responsibilities of his new position include coordinating statewide sportfish sampling on public reservoirs and the boating access program, as well as, administering

Alabama’s Bass Angler Information Team (B.A.I.T. Program), Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team (H.E.A.R.T.), and Angler Recognition Programs. Damon also acts as the Fisheries Section’s point of contact for organized fishing clubs and tournament organizations.

### Biodiversity Center Welcomes New Biologist.



Todd Fobian joined the staff at the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC) in Marion, Alabama in late October. A native of Missouri, Todd completed his Master’s degree at Missouri State University in Springfield Missouri under the direction of Dr. Chris Barnhart. Todd completed research on the fish host utilization and culture methods for the imperiled Rabbits-foot mussel (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*) for his thesis project. Todd is a specialist in the propagation and artificial culture of freshwater mussels. Alabama’s rivers once supported 178 different species of mussels, the most of any single place in the world. However, due to degradation and habitat changes in our rivers some 33 species are now extinct and 15 species are extirpated from state waters. An additional 40 species are now federally listed as either candidate, threatened, or endangered, and recent state wildlife planning efforts have identified another 35 mussel species in need of conservation action. Todd will first assist the AABC with becoming operational and then help lead mussel recovery efforts statewide. The AABC will initiate operations in 2008 and the center will be dedicated to freshwater species recovery and conservation efforts in Alabama. The AABC

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is organized under the Fisheries Section of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. The AABC is being initiated through support from the State Wildlife Grants program.

Paul Johnson  
Program Supervisor  
Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center

### U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

We had over sixty very enthusiastic folks that assisted with the Gulf sturgeon collection and tagging project conducted on the Choctawhatchee River, Florida during October and November 2007.

The entire Southeast was in the midst of a drought and river flows were well below normal when we set our first nets out in early October. In addition to the low water, we were experiencing great "Indian Summer" weather....shorts and t-shirts! Not really the kind of conditions that help to trigger the fall Gulf sturgeon migration from freshwater rivers systems to overwintering areas in marine waters. We fished our nets for ten days without collecting a single sturgeon. In mid October, the Florida panhandle was deluged with a 2 day rain event that dumped over 5 inches of much needed rain in the watershed. Almost overnight the river flow rose from 1,500 cubic feet per second to 4,200 cubic feet per second. That's all the Gulf sturgeon needed! We caught our 1<sup>st</sup> sturgeon on October 19<sup>th</sup> with the rise on the river.

Once the migration started, we collected and tagged 627 fish from October 19 through November 7! Our average catch per day was 31 fish, however on two occasions we collected almost 90 sturgeons during a 12 hour period. The fish ranged in size from 16 to 83 inches in total length and weighed from ½ to 144 pounds. Juvenile fish (under 35 inches fork length) accounted for 56% of the catch, while sub adult (35 to 50 inches fork length) and adult (over 50 inches fork length) sturgeons made up 20% and 24% of the catch, respectively. This compares to the last survey conducted in the Choctawhatchee River in 2001 when juvenile fish comprised 21%

of the catch and adults made up 61% of the sample. Estimating the Gulf sturgeon population with any confidence is compounded by the large number of untagged juvenile fish (N=357) collected in the study, which, if included in the analysis, may skew the population estimate. With that in mind, the population for just sub adult and adult Gulf sturgeon, as calculated using the Petersen mark-recapture methodology, was estimated at 2,800 fish. For comparison, the estimate for the entire Gulf sturgeon population in the Choctawhatchee River in 2001, including juveniles, was also estimated at 2,800 fish. The incredible number of juvenile sturgeons collected during our effort this year indicates that reproduction of the Choctawhatchee population of Gulf sturgeon has been very successful over the last several years. Based on the number of fish collected and marked this year, we feel that the overall Gulf sturgeon population has increased in the Choctawhatchee River, and with the inclusion of the juvenile component in next year's population study, scheduled for October, 2008, a more accurate picture of the overall population may be drawn.

Fifty three fish collected during the study had been previously tagged, with the majority of these recaptures resulting from our studies conducted in Choctawhatchee River in 1999, 2000, and 2001. We also had one fish, which was tagged in the Choctawhatchee River in 1991, measured 68 ½ inches in fork length and weighed 115 pounds. Recaptured in 2007, this individual measured 73 ¼ inches in fork length and weighed 113 pounds, 2 pounds less than it did 16 years ago! We still have a lot to learn about Gulf sturgeon but evidence seems to indicate that these fish grow rapidly during the first several years and then reach a point where increases in length and weight are only minimal. The Gulf sturgeon has a very strong homing instinct, going back to the natal stream each year. However, a fascinating observation is that of the number of fish previously tagged and recaptured during our study, 16% were tagged in other rivers systems which included the Apalachicola, Yellow and Escambia rivers.

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As a side note, 7 alligator gar weighing from 82 to 98 pounds were collected and tagged during the study. The fish ranged in weight from 82 to 97 pounds and measured from 62 to 73 inches in total length. All fish were tagged with PIT tags and T-bar floy tags. Two fish were equipped with external sonic tags. In addition, a small piece of tissue was removed for genetic analysis. The alligator gar population, once plentiful in Florida waters, has decreased in recent years and is now protected under state regulations.

Frank Parauka  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Panama City, Florida

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT Environmental Indicators Section (EIS)

#### Rivers and Reservoirs Monitoring Program (RRMP)

**RRMP 2005:** Data compilation and download for the *Surface Water Quality Screening Assessment of the reservoirs and tributary embayments of the ACT Basins* is complete. Currently, we are working on the final report. We hope to have a final copy soon.

**RRMP 2006:** Data is now available for the project *Surface Water Quality Screening Assessment of Rivers, Reservoirs, and Tributary Embayments of the Tombigbee, Mobile, and Escatawpa River Basins*. Monthly sampling, April-October, was conducted at 37 river, reservoir, or embayment sites.

**RRMP 2007:** Sampling is complete for the project *Surface Water Quality Screening Assessment of Rivers, Reservoirs, and Tributary Embayments of the Black Warrior and Cahaba River Basins*. Monthly sampling, April-October, was conducted at 45 river, reservoir, or embayment sites.

Compliance monitoring for established lake-specific nutrient criteria in West Point, Harding, W.F. George, Point A, Gantt, Jackson, and Frank Jackson Reservoirs was also accomplished

through intensive sampling. Monthly sampling, April-October, was conducted at 13 sites on these reservoirs.

Sampling for the critical period monitoring (August) of Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, Jordan, Harris, Martin, Yates, Thurlow, Woodruff, Dannelly, and Claiborne Reservoirs was completed in accordance with the two-year monitoring rotation of all lakes in the state.

**Drought 2007:** ADEM has completed additional studies related to the extreme drought conditions and the ongoing flow study at Jordan Dam. An ADEM field crew measured in-situ water quality parameters at four transects downstream of Jordan Dam on 7/24/07 to gather baseline data. The stations are located between ADEM's trend station below the dam and the Wetumpka boat ramp. Weekly, as resources and time allowed, an ADEM field crew collected vertical profiles at 3 points in a river cross-section (to include the deepest point in the channel) at the following locations:

- Jordan Dam tailrace (COSE-1 trend station) (dirt boat ramp/east bank);
- Upstream of Moccasin Gap (COSE-2) (use Cousins ramp);
- Below Corn Creek confluence (COSE-3) (use Coosa Outdoor Center/Lonnie Carden launch site);
- Wetumpka/ Gold Star Park boat ramp (COSE-4).

In addition, monthly profiles from dam forebay stations at all monitored reservoirs are graphed and provided to the ACT Drought monitoring committee.

**National Lakes Assessment:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), states, and tribes conducted a nationwide survey this past summer of the condition of the nation's lakes. The survey will help citizens and governments measure the health of our waters, take actions to prevent pollution, and evaluate the

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effectiveness of protection and restoration efforts.

Designed to estimate the percentage of lakes that are in good, fair, or poor condition, the survey will serve as a scientific report card on America's lakes. It will examine ecological, water quality, and recreational indicators, and assess how widespread key stressors (such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and acidification) are across the country.

The survey is a collaborative effort that involves dozens of state environmental and natural resource agencies, federal agencies, universities and other organizations. In Alabama, ADEM staff conducted the water quality sampling and habitat assessments at 14 reservoirs, of which: 10 are publicly accessible reservoirs, 1 city-owned reservoir, 1 county-owned reservoir, and 2 private reservoirs. The samples were collected and then shipped to EPA laboratories for analysis.

Many measurements were taken at each selected reservoir. All field crews used consistent procedures at all sites so the results can be compared across the country. We measured such things as:

- Temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, chlorophyll a, water clarity, turbidity, and color
- Condition of the habitat along the shoreline
- Zooplankton and phytoplankton -- microscopic animals and plants in the water that are an important part of the food chain
- Aquatic macroinvertebrates -- small animals such as insects and snails that are a source of food for fish and birds
- Bacteria -- indicators of fecal contamination from animals or humans.
- Sediment cores from the bottom of the lake for Mercury and diatom analysis.

For further information on the RRMP Program or the National Lakes Survey, contact Gina LoGiudice at (334) 260-2783 or [glogiudice@adem.state.al.us](mailto:glogiudice@adem.state.al.us)

### Fish Tissue Monitoring Program (FTMP)

**FTMP FY2008:** Sampling for fish tissue analysis for FY08 is complete. A total of 540 fish were collected from 45 locations from October-December. Twenty stations were sampled within this year's focus basin (Black Warrior/Cahaba). Twelve stations were sampled that had current ADPH consumption advisories. Ten stations were sampled in south Alabama that had not been sampled in several years and 1 station was sampled in south Alabama that had never been sampled (some stations fulfill multiple objectives).

Other projects fish tissue was also collected for include:

- Dioxin analysis below paper mills, 3 stations
- ADCNR requests, 1 station
- ADPH requests, 4 stations
- Multi species collection where multiple species were collected from a single station, 8 samples
- Public water supplies, 1 station.

For further information on the FTMP contact Michael Len at (334) 260-2787 or [mmlen@adem.state.al.us](mailto:mmlen@adem.state.al.us)

### River and Streams Monitoring Program (RSMP)

**2005 RSMP:** ADEM initiated a pilot project in the wadeable rivers and streams located in the Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basins during 2005. The Strategy uses a watershed-based, probabilistic monitoring approach to assess overall water quality within each of ADEM's Basin Groups. A Human Disturbance Gradient is used to classify each watershed by its potential level of disturbance. By monitoring watersheds in proportion to the

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number of watersheds in each HDG category, the monitoring strategy will provide an estimate of overall water quality. Additionally, by sampling the entire gradient of watershed conditions within the basin group, the monitoring strategy will increase ADEM's capacity by providing data to develop indicators appropriate for Wadeable rivers and streams statewide. The EIS calculated summary statistics for intensive water quality sampling parameters to evaluate which watershed characteristics are most correlated with water quality parameters to improve the predictive capability of ADEM's HDG.

Approximately 125 intensive macroinvertebrate community assessments were completed during 2005. The EIS completed identification of 250 macroinvertebrate habitat samples collected during 2005. Forty-eight of the seventy-four samples identified by new taxonomists have been second QA'ed for accuracy and consistency by senior staff. The Chironomidae have been slide mounted and identified for 200 of the 250 habitat samples.

Periphyton bioassessments were conducted at approximately 125 stream segments within the ACT during 2005. Intensive monthly (March-October) sampling was conducted at 40 of these locations. These bioassessments include periphyton biomass as chlorophyll a, a Rapid Periphyton Assessment (RPS), and Diatom Community Assessment (DCA). With funding provided by EPA Region 4, 63 DCA samples collected during May/June 2005 have been sent to Michigan State University for identification and analysis, including the 40 Intensive Survey stations and approximately 20 stations that can be used to evaluate nutrient conditions for the Cahaba River Nutrient TMDL.

**2006 RSMP:** During 2006, monitoring conducted by the EIS focused on the Escatawpa, Mobile Bay, Tombigbee (EMT) River Basins in accordance with ADEM's basin rotation schedule. However, sampling in the EMT was disrupted due to a severe drought during the 2006 sampling season. Monthly water sampling was continued in 2007 at two EMT Basin stations where no or minimal data were collected. Five of

twelve bioassessments scheduled for 2007 could not be conducted due to continuing severe drought conditions.

**2007 RSMP:** During 2007, monitoring conducted by the EIS will focus on the Black Warrior and Cahaba (BWC) River Basins in accordance with ADEM's basin rotation schedule. Routine sampling began in March. Samples collected during the 3rd quarter are summarized in the RSMP table. Macroinvertebrate bioassessments were completed. However, only 40 of the scheduled 64 assessments could be conducted due to severe drought continues. Fish IBI assessments began in mid-June. Of the 40 scheduled, only 28 were suitable for bioassessments in early June. Periphyton surveys were conducted at ten stations in August. These bioassessments include a Rapid Periphyton Assessment (RPS) and Diatom Community Assessment (DCA)

For further information on this project contact Lisa Huff at (334) 260-2752 or [ESH@adem.state.al.us](mailto:ESH@adem.state.al.us)

See you at Orange Beach!



# ALABAMA FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18 – FEBRUARY 20, 2008  
PERDIDO BEACH RESORT  
ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX : \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip +4: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-registration Fee: Regular \$120.00  
Students/Retirees \$50.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-registration includes a banquet ticket and, if you register by February 1<sup>st</sup>, a **free** t-shirt. Shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: 1 year \$5.00  
3 years \$15.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Banquet Tickets \$25.00 each ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Door prize tickets (\$1 each, 15 for \$10) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle tickets (\$1 each, 15 for \$10) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional donation to the AFA scholarship fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### APPAREL: GIVE NUMBER AND SIZE BELOW \*

Tee-shirts: @ \$10.00 each x \_\_\_\_\_ .. ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Hats: @ \$10.00 each x \_\_\_\_\_ .. ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Size selection subject to availability.

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX BY FEBRUARY 1

Send to: Gina LoGiudice, P.O. Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463  
FAX: (334) 277-6718. Questions? Call 334-260-2783 or  
EMAIL: [glogiudice@adem.state.al.us](mailto:glogiudice@adem.state.al.us)

Make checks payable to: Alabama Fisheries Association or AFA. Additional raffle and banquet tickets will be available at the door.

★ Or, you can register at our web site <http://www.alabamafisheriesassociation.org/>