

# Presentation Abstracts



September 28–October 1, 2002  
Aquatic Resource Education Association  
[www.AREANet.org](http://www.AREANet.org)



# Model Programs

## **“Agua Pura”: Engaging Latino Youth and Families in Aquatic Resource Issues**

Michael Marzolla and Andrez Montiel  
Youth Development Advisors  
University of California Cooperative Extension

Agua Pura (Pure Water), began in 1998 as a partnership of the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension's Give Water A Hand, Santa Barbara County Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Program and Santa Barbara City College to bring together youth education leaders who work with Latino youth around watershed education and stewardship issues. The project featured a Leadership Institute for formal and nonformal educators that used resources from Give Water A Hand, Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN), Adopt-A-Watershed, and California Aquatic Science Education Consortium (CASEC) as the foundation for improving understanding of how to involve local Latino youth in watershed protection. The Leadership Institute focused on strategies to involve the Latino community and how resources need to be adapted to meet their needs and interests. Agua Pura continues to successfully involve mainly Latino youth and youth leaders throughout Santa Barbara County through workshops, camp programs and after-school activities. The project has produced a guide to providing a Watershed Education Leadership Institute relevant to underserved youth needs. This presentation will include a summary of this project and will detail major points that may guide program planners that wish to engage under-served communities in watershed education programs.

## **The Foundations of Therapeutic Fishing Interventions for Individuals with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness; Some Reflections from Let's Go Fishing in New Hampshire**

Michael E. Beech, MA CPRP  
Director of Case Management  
Monadnock Family Services

Mark Beauchesne  
Aquatic Resources Education  
New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game

Based in adventure therapy and experiential education, fishing as a therapeutic modality can be a highly effective component in the treatment of individuals with schizophrenia and other severe and persistent mental illness. There are sound foundations for the use of fishing as a therapeutic intervention, and some unique qualities in the fishing experience that gives it additional impact. For over seven years the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game has collaborated with a community mental health center to deliver therapeutic fishing interventions to individuals with most severe types of mental illness. The experience in these interventions has lead to expanded applications of the Let's Go Fishing program to other populations of individuals with disability. The foundation and development of this intervention is detailed and experiences from the groups are presented as well as suggestions for establishing partnerships to expand the benefits of this approach to others.

## **Healthy Water, Healthy People – Innovative Water Quality Education Tools for Professional Aquatic Educators**

John Etgen, Director  
Healthy Water, Healthy People Program  
The Watercourse and Project WET, Montana State University

Healthy Water, Healthy People, the latest program of Project WET and based at Montana State University, uses innovative, interactive activities and materials to demonstrate critical water quality topics. The program provides educators with hands-on activities, testing kits, training, and materials to investigate a broad range of water quality topics. It encourages investigation of the connections between water quality topics and issues and their relationship to environmental, ecological, and human health. Program materials target intermediate, high school, and university students, as well as nonformal and adult audiences.

With so many educators monitoring water quality, there is a need for clear understanding of why we monitor, the relationship between water quality and land uses, the process of analyzing and interpreting monitoring data, and the limits to drawing conclusions from that data. Healthy Water, Healthy People activities and materials give formal and nonformal educators the tools to address these needs in hands-on, interactive ways.

However, understanding water quality goes well beyond water quality monitoring, and these materials target broader topics as well. Topics such as nonpoint source pollution, ecological connections to water quality, waterborne disease, drinking water standards, wastewater treatment, restoration of impacted watersheds, and basic scientific principles related to water quality all play a critical role in illustrating the larger context that water quality plays in our world. Following the principles of science education reform, the activities are correlated to the National Science Education Content Standards and promote inquiry-based investigations and critical thinking, cooperative learning, and problem-solving skills.

### **Public / Private Partnerships – A model for Aquatic Education**

Dave Hagengruber  
Angler Education Specialist  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Robert H. Wiltshire, Director  
International Fly Fishing Center

As public resource agencies struggle to meet increasing education demands with limited resources new opportunities for public/private partnerships are being explored. In Montana the large geographic size and small population base make it almost impossible for agency personnel to provide services to all who request them. In an effort to better serve the public, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has entered into a number of contract arrangements with the private sector to provide angling and aquatic resource education. The successes of these contracts are presented along with an in depth look at how one NGO combines the joint missions of their organization and the FWP to provide quality education services.

## **Green Eggs and Sand**

Gary Kreamer  
Delaware Department of Natural Resources

Cindy Grove  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Sue Canale  
New Jersey Fish and Wildlife

Stewart Michels  
Delaware DNREC

The horseshoe crab/shorebird phenomenon along the Atlantic coast continues to attract widespread interest and generate considerable controversy. Concurrent with the need to manage these resources sustainably (and do the research needed to gather the data required to do so), there is a clear need to better educate the general public and school children about the significance of this phenomena and how efforts to manage these valued resources have been directed and are proceeding. To that end, a coalition of natural resource educators from Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey have developed an intensive workshop experience, accompanied by a four-module video and curriculum package, designed to immerse educators in the phenomenon, introduce them to the scientists and stakeholders involved, and equip them with educational materials effective in building a clearer, deeper, more balanced understanding of the issues presented. This session will overview the process by which this multi-state education project has been planned and implemented, with emphasis on the vital role that collaboration between educators, scientists and resource managers has played in this process, with a view to how this approach might be applied to other natural resource issues in other areas.

## **Reorganization of the “Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs” Program**

Anne Glick  
Executive Director  
Future Fisherman Foundation

Laura Jerome  
Assistant Director  
Future Fisherman Foundation

Betty Lewis  
Youth Activities Coordinator  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Since its introduction in 1993, the Future Fisherman Foundation’s “Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs” (HOFNOD) program has introduced millions of youth to sportfishing. “Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs” has evolved over the years, but no change has been as exciting as the

program's reorganization over the past two years. The Future Fisherman Foundation has re-established our partnership with the state fish and wildlife agencies. Through the work of our newly formed HOFNOD advisory committee, our state ARE coordinators, and our Board; the Foundation has elevated angling skills and angling recruitment to the forefront of the program. This past year the Foundation was awarded a two year International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies' grant to provide our state partners with the materials and support requested to expand the "Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs" program and the Fishing Tackle Loaner program. During this presentation, Foundation staff will outline the major changes in the Foundation's programs and the support available to our state partners. Guidelines for becoming a new HOFNOD coordinating state and information on new initiatives will be discussed.

### **Partnerships That Work - Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Cooperative Extension**

Ann Miller, Aquatic Education Coordinator  
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Larry Hysmith, 4-H Sportfishing Program Coordinator  
Texas Cooperative Extension

About six years ago, both Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Cooperative Extension recognized some important needs in our state related to the natural resource education mission of both agencies. Texas' population is expected to double in the next 30 years and become increasingly urban. This urban population is not buying fishing licenses in good numbers, indicating a decrease in that connection with our resources. More alarming, significant gaps are evident in our state residents' knowledge about aquatic environments and how humans impact those environments. Deficiencies in both fiscal and human resources have compounded the problem of trying to meet the changing needs of this new clientele. Both Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Cooperative Extension leaders recognized the need for dynamic and innovative programming to meet these challenges. Also recognized was the fact that both agencies had particular assets that would help meet the needs more efficiently when working together. By identifying those assets and creating a formal partnership that provides cooperation rather than competition, programs of both agencies have experienced significant growth in the last four years. The goals, the individual agency contributions, the contractual process, the difficulties encountered, the lessons learned, and the design for the future will be discussed.

## **Project WET- Developing Creative Partnerships for Aquatic Education**

Rab Cummings, Network Coordinator  
Project WET USA

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a highly successful water education program that uses innovative, interactive activities and materials to communicate water resource concepts. The program targets teachers and non-formal educators who must participate in a minimum of six-hours of training to receive the *Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide* and supplementary materials. Workshops are delivered via a Project WET state coordinator and network of facilitators. There are presently active Project WET programs in all lower 48 states and several U.S. Territories as well as Canada, Mexico, the Philippines and the Peace Corps. In many states Project WET provides a unifying context for aquatic education elements including sport fishing, noxious weeds, wetlands, groundwater, water quality monitoring and drought. Learn about the latest Project WET initiatives materials that will supplement your existing programs. You will be invited to explore how you can partner with the existing Project WET Coordinator in your state to achieve common aquatic education goals.

### **Using the STEP OUTSIDE program to strengthen sportfishing educational programs**

Sharon Rushton  
STEP OUTSIDE Program Development Consultant

Jodi DiCamillo  
STEP OUTSIDE National Coordinator

Mark Duda  
Executive Director  
Responsive Management

STEP OUTSIDE®, a program based on sound research and marketing principles, can help agencies expand their sportfishing and aquatic education programs by having anglers within their state introduce individuals one-on-one and/or by developing partners that provide introductory activities. Research shows that someone is more likely to try an activity if invited by someone they know. New research findings provide insight into the messages that would most motivate our constituency to make those invitations. Support is available through STEP OUTSIDE for both the angler and the newcomer. STEP OUTSIDE “how to” booklets show anglers how to make their outings successful. The STEP OUTSIDE website at [www.stepoutside.org](http://www.stepoutside.org) provides information and resources for both the angler and newcomer. A searchable data base of educational programs is available on the website plus a listing of books and videos that help individuals learn how or learn more about the traditional outdoor sports.

## **Promoting Stewardship of Aquatic Resources through a Watershed Education Program**

Beth Reinhart  
Aquatic Education Program Specialist  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

One of the many challenges facing state fish and game agencies is how to reach out to groups of people who fall outside their traditional constituency. New Hampshire Fish and Game has successfully addresses this challenge through a watershed education program for high school students. For more than 10 years the program has centered on water quality monitoring to help students develop a heightened sense of personal responsibility for long-term care of their river. Recent program evaluations by Department staff and participating educators highlighted the need for a more direct link to fish and wildlife management issues. As a result the program has been expanded statewide and includes a more comprehensive look at the schools' sub-watershed to identify limiting factors for aquatic species. In addition to water quality monitoring, students use geospatial technology to determine geomorphic characteristics, quantify land use and critical areas, and identify anthropogenic influences affecting watershed health. In the revised program students also participate in backpack electroshocking to determine the resident fish community. Fish are collected, identified and enumerated at the site. For those students who want to continue behavioral observations of the fish some can be brought back to the classroom and held in a river simulation tank, "Bass in the Class" as it has been dubbed. The culmination of the students' investigations and analysis of their sub-watershed is to make a presentation of their findings to a community stakeholder, such as a conservation commission or watershed association. Facilitating a watershed education program provides a vehicle that promotes the department's mission and increases constituency through understanding and supporting management techniques used to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources.

### **Trout Unlimited's First Cast Program Introducing Kids to Stewardship Through Fly Fishing**

Duncan Blair  
Youth Program Coordinator  
Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. TU delivers fly fishing and stewardship classes to kids and adults through its network of over 125,000 members in 450 chapters across the country. TU's new youth education initiative is called First Cast and is the result of a cooperative agreement between TU and the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF). The First Cast initiative is based on a fly fishing education curriculum written by Phil Genova that is flexible enough for TU chapters to create programs in a wide variety of models. First Cast programs range from partnerships with schools to teaching the new Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge to hosting stand-alone clinics or camps. Success of these programs is measured with surveys completed by the participants and overall statistics gathered from the program leaders. In its first year, the First Cast initiative has helped over 100 TU chapters with curriculum materials, discounted educational equipment or technical assistance and reached over 7,500 youth.

## **Wild Resources Education Workshop: A Intergrated Resource-Based Professional Development Experience for Formal and Non-formal Educators**

Dr. Daniel R. Dziubek, Associate Professor  
Department of Parks and Recreation/Environmental Education,

Carl Richardson, Aquatic Resources Education Manager  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

The Wild Resource Education Workshop has been conducted at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania for eight consecutive years. The premise of the workshop is to address the integration of environment and ecology content and methodology into schools through the theme of Pennsylvania's wild resources. This workshop involves the cooperation of resource management agencies including the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, and the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Private support has been provided by the Safari Club International-Pittsburgh Chapter. To date over 300 teachers, along with a number of conservation educators, have attended the workshop. The workshop format was developed to provide needed content upon which to frame the lessons contained in the environmental education curricula coordinated by these agencies. Additionally, teachers gain valuable connections to resource managers and the services available through the various agencies. Planning considerations, approaches, and agency input and benefits are presented and discussed.

### **The States' Perspective About the Aquatic Nuisance Species Issue and the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" Public Awareness Campaign**

Joe Starinchak, Outreach Coordinator  
USFWS, Division of Fish & Wildlife Management

With the continued expansion of the ANS issue, the ANS Task Force has applied marketing to raise awareness of the issue. State level policy makers and aquatic recreation users are the primary target audiences. Policy makers were chosen because they affect the states' capabilities, and these agencies conduct most of the on-the-ground activities. Discussions with some states showed that they may not have the funding/authorities to address the issue. To verify this, the FWS partnered with the IAFWA to survey the states. The results provide interesting insights about the states' perspective. A series of questions dealt with the public's awareness of the issue, and 95% of the states indicated they would like to participate in a national marketing initiative addressing ANS.

Anticipating this interest, the Task Force has developed the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" campaign that targets aquatic recreation users. The campaign has been designed to leverage participation by multiple public and private partners. Also, "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" provides states with a way to connect with their customers and empower them to follow simple preventive procedures every time they leave any body of water.

All campaign materials, which include a web site ([www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net)), are available for use by the states. If recreational users regularly follow the prevention procedures every time they leave a body of water, it should help reduce the spread of harmful invaders and limit their impacts on pristine lakes, rivers and coastal resources.

### **Teaching Fly Fishing: A Private-Sector Perspective**

Macauley Lord  
Head Instructor  
L.L. Bean Fly Fishing Schools

L.L. Bean, Inc. is perhaps the world's best-recognized active outdoor brand and conducts one the country's oldest and largest series of fly fishing schools. The schools introduce over 2000 people annually to the elements of the sport and consistently have a customer satisfaction rating of over 98%. Most students of the schools attend a casting clinic or a one or two-day school. The two-day school emphasizes casting, along with tackle, knots, aquatic fish foods and the flies that imitate them, fly tying, reading water and fishing. The schools and their curricula have changed significantly over the last 15 years to adapt to changes in the goals of the students and of L.L. Bean. Customers attribute their high degree of satisfaction in part to the school's curriculum and organization but primarily to its staff. Changes to the curricula that emphasize an increase in experiential learning are presented. Changes in the way staff have been recruited, trained and motivated over the last 15 years are presented. Observations on similarities between running successful private-sector and public-sector fishing education programs are offered. Model curricula for fly-casting clinics and one-day and two-day fly fishing schools are offered.

### **Interactive CD-ROM and Database-Driven Websites – Wildlife Education for the Masses using Multimedia and the Internet**

Douglas Galarus  
Director of Application Development  
Information Technology Office  
The University of Montana

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks recently contracted with the Application Development Group of the Information Technology Office at the University of Montana for the production of several database-driven websites and an interactive CD-ROM to enhance their Hunter and Angler Education programs. The goal was to incorporate a wealth of content with technology for mass-distribution and access to the public for educational purposes. The resulting applications will be demonstrated, accompanied by a discussion of the production efforts behind them as well as the potential for such applications.

## **Pennsylvania Amphibians & Reptiles Curriculum Guide**

Laurel Garlicki  
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

The PA Amphibian & Reptiles Curriculum Guide is a multi-disciplinary curriculum guide designed for classroom educators, K-12. The curriculum is designed to assist educators in teaching concepts from the newly mandated PA Department of Education's Environment and Ecology as well as Science and Technology standards. A summary of evaluation through the use of pilot educators will be presented. Workshop format evaluation and pre- and post-workshop assessments of identification and content knowledge will be discussed.

### **Military Family Service Programs**

Lonnie D. Nelson  
Kentucky Department Fish and Wildlife Resources

During the fall and winter of 2001/2002 the mission of the American military changed drastically. In Kentucky, we have two large military bases that are deeply involved in the anti-terrorism efforts. In the past, Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has worked with each base to provide fishing opportunities for the youth of these bases. In light of the high degree of deployment, we coordinated with each family service organization to provide extensive opportunities for the families of deployed soldiers.

At Fort Campbell, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division is a prime contributor to the war effort overseas. Fort Campbell's family services selected "Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs" as the theme of a summer long program. Families of deployed or about to deploy soldiers will be targeted. Training has been accomplished for 28 individuals from the base to facilitate the program.

Fort Knox's mission is to train Reservist and National Guard personnel in homeland defense particulars. As these personnel come to Fort Knox and often are joined by families during the weekend. Therefore, the temporary family will be a target in this program.

KDFWR has provided training to the staff and volunteers of both bases. In addition, books are available and fishing materials are provided for those families that do not have their own equipment. Purchase of fish has been coordinated to form a partnership. Each base has matched Department funding to expand the potential for fish stocking. As programs develop, department personnel will also be directly involved with the execution of these programs.

## **WILD about FISH, aka WET, WILD and Fishy.**

Theresa Stabo, Aquatic Resources Education Director  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

A boatload of water resources education programs exists throughout the country. As educators we often find ourselves competing for the attention of teachers and youth leaders who have limited time to attend our training workshops. Rather than compete, Wisconsin offers educators a suite of complementary water resources programs. Project WET, Project WILD, Water Action Volunteers, and others all support one of the primary goals of the Angler Education Program: to foster an acceptance of the individual's responsibility in protecting fisheries habitat. While they stand well enough on their own, these programs provide educators with a rich array of materials that allow them build a solid water program for their students when offered together. How that is done will be explored in this presentation.

### **The River Continuum Poster Series**

Lonnie D. Nelson  
Kentucky Department Fish and Wildlife Resources

In 1995, an aquatic poster was produced to illustrate the Stream Ecosystem. At the time, it was envisioned as a poster that would be used by itself to demonstrate aquatic habitat. This poster was extremely popular with both professional biologists and teachers. While developing the next five-year plan in 1996, we decided to expand this into a poster series for multiple ecosystems.

Today, four posters have been produced which encompass the River Continuum. Each poster illustrates a different portion of a river system from Small Stream to Big River conditions. Anywhere along the continuum, one would expect to find wetlands, and the fourth poster illustrates the Wetland Slough. Each ecosystem is depicted with appropriate water clarity and those species that are commonly found in such a system.

Each poster is accompanied by a teacher's guide on the web. These guides include explanation of ecological principals along with suggested activities. A glossary and a list of scientific names is also included.

Due to the popularity, the posters now include species that are found throughout the Ohio and Mid-Mississippi region. As of 1996, all orders for posters have been offered to those states that border Kentucky. In most cases, they have purchased the posters and used them in respective aquatic education programs.

These posters are all produced with Sportfish Restoration dollars, therefore they are available to any state that would like to produce their own or buy them through the same publisher used by Kentucky. To date, over 400,000 posters have been produced, with 188,000 in Kentucky alone. Subtracting current stock resources, over 150,000 have been distributed to Kentucky schools and youth leaders.

# Professional Development

## Todo el Mundo a Pescar: Invite Us All!

Margarita Lara  
Graduate Assistant  
Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Shari L. Dann  
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist  
Michigan State University, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife

Innovative aquatic resource education strategies must target knowledge and increase resource-user connections across all sub-segments of the nation's allowing ownership in resource issues of importance locally and nationally and encouraging bottom-up participation in management. These changes in strategy are needed as a result of the diversifying population of the United States and increasing number of minorities. A primary problem with marketing for minorities is the investment required for examining target audience tendencies, attitudes, specific behaviors, and values (Duda 1990). Once resources are allocated for examining minority characteristics in general (i.e. studying Hispanics as an entire group), there is a lack of funding for engaging Hispanic population sub-segments (e.g., migrants) and other minorities in aquatic resource utilization through the delivery of meaningfully cultural programming. Agencies, institutions, and organizations should capitalize on personnel specialties, cultural background, and second languages to cross train and better serve different publics through the use of modern innovations. In this presentation, we will summarize the work we are doing to examine literature and data for migrant populations, and to meet their needs with culturally relevant aquatic resource education programming.

## In-house Production of Large-Format Interpretation Materials

Michael F. O'Malley  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

I have developed techniques to produce large-format interpretation materials in-house, using existing engineering-type plotters. The technique is really quite simple, once one gets through the UNIX issues and the turf issues. I've developed posters as large as 7' x 10' for use on pop-up show displays. My current focus is interpretation of wildlife for our wildlife areas, but it is just as applicable to fishing situations.

There are a variety of new products available that can be stuck through one of these large format printers, including photo-quality papers, adhesive-backed paper, translucent papers for mounting on reverse/backlight situations, UV-resistant laminates of various weights, canvas, Tyvek for banners, etc. Costs for using in-house printers instead of going out to service bureaus, is roughly 1/10th (\$.83 square foot compared to \$8.50-\$15 per square foot). Finished examples using the different materials, and sample packs of products will be available as well as contacts for the conference members.

## **Promoting Best Practices for Teachers and Educators in the Collection of Marine and Freshwater Organisms**

Rob Kramer and George Shipp  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

By January of 1996 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection learned that a number of the state's educators maintained saltwater aquaria in their classrooms and that many of the organisms were being kept in violation of State regulations. In April of the same year DEP opened a dialogue with the Florida Marine Science Educators Association to address this issue. As a result of this effort DEP and FMSEA developed a program that provided educators with a special collection permit. Educators received this permit by attending a FMSEA facilitated workshop where attendees would learn about the regulations, review reasons marine organisms were being collected, consider various collection strategies, and learn ways to minimize both the environmental impacts and the loss of live specimen. In 1999 the regulatory responsibility passed from DEP to the Fish and Wildlife Commission and allowed the agency to expand the program to include freshwater species. As a result of this effort over 600 educators have participated in these workshops and are certified by the agency to legally collect and house regulated species.

## **Investigation for the Use of Summer Camp Staff to Deliver and Develop Aquatic Education Programs**

Keith Koupal  
Fisheries Specialist  
Nebraska Game and Parks

Anne Skalski  
State Aquatic Education Coordinator  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Laura Jerome  
Assistant Director  
Future Fisherman Foundation

A pilot development committee funded by Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and composed of representatives from state agencies, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Camping Association, Boy Scouts of America, and American Sportfishing Association convened in February 2001 to determine optimal methods in which to establish and perpetuate aquatic education programs in summer camps. A survey of camp directors was conducted to assess their needs and perceptions of sportfish programming. Additionally, a pre-/post survey evaluation of camp participants at pilot programs in New York indicated a significant increase in fishing knowledge (4.2%, p-value <0.001) and biology/ecology knowledge (5.2%, p-value <0.001). Ethical behavior awareness knowledge did not increase during camp participation (-0.6%, p-value 0.703). Input will be solicited from AREA conference attendees to assist in shaping the future direction of these efforts.

## **The Ethics of Catch and Release Fishing**

Thomas Baumeister  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Jim Posewitz  
Orion The Hunters Institute

Jon Lyman  
Alaska Dept Fish & Game

Dave Hagenruber  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

This presentation will be a moderated panel discussion on the personal ethics of catch and release fishing. Presenters will share a variety of philosophical viewpoints on catch and release, from a strictly pro-catch and release, to an anti-catch and release attitude. Implications for conservation of fisheries resources and angler education will also be discussed.

# **Program Evaluation**

## **South Carolina Youth Aquatic Survey Results**

Mark Duda  
Responsive Management

BeBe Harrison  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and its Freshwater Fisheries Division have a strong belief in understanding human dimensions. From the time that the SCDNR began its aquatic education program in 1999, and even before, the department was trying to understand the public and how to better serve them. Beginning with a licensed angler survey and moving onto youth aquatic surveys, the SCDNR was finding out valuable information to shape its aquatic education programs. Biologists have always done research on animal/plant species in order to better serve the population and this was now carrying over to humans with human dimensions work. The South Carolina Youth Aquatic Survey was a part in an overall human dimensions study in the state. This was one of the first studies of its kind and shows incredible results. These results will be presented and discussed for other program managers across the US.

## **Fishing for the Future: Establishing and Maintaining a 4-H Sportfishing Program**

Douglas L. Steele  
Chair, National 4-H Sportfishing Program

Mark Cronquist  
Extension 4-H Youth Agent

Jon Lyman  
Aquatic Education Coordinator

Larry Hysmith  
Extension Associate

Throughout the seven-year history of the National 4-H Sportfishing program it has become evident that there is no one specific way to develop a successful adult/youth fishing program. While some items remain constant, such as content, philosophy and mentorship, others are always evolving, such as partnerships, resources and delivery modes. This presentation will focus on three totally different methods to achieve the same common goal: having a successful program that is sustainable. One program is delivered primarily by the Aquatic Education Coordinator, another program is conducted with leadership given by county Extension agents, and a third program is a funding partnership between different agencies. While all programs are different, each has accomplished the identified outcome of giving more youth the opportunity to be a part of a sportfishing program. Evaluative summaries of program activities will be discussed, as well as the presentation of the National 4-H Sportfishing Strategic Plan.

## **Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation**

### **Theory Into Action: A presentation of the Best Practices in Fishing, Boating and Aquatic Stewardship Education tools for educators project**

Mike O'Malley  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

D.J. Case & Associates

In partnership with aquatic resource education experts across the country, RBFF developed Best Practices in Fishing, Boating, and Aquatic Stewardship Education. The project began in response to a need for nationally accepted and science-based guidance for effective aquatic education program delivery, and for evaluating aquatic education efforts. The resulting 180-page document includes guidelines in Program Development, Professional Development, Research, and Evaluation and is supported by 11 additional scientific papers by education experts from around the country.

The next step is to take the information from the Best Practices and translate it into tools with actionable guidelines for educators. The expected outcome of this project will be materials and training that allow aquatic educators to easily understand, apply, and communicate best practices in delivering their programs. This presentation will summarize the development of the Best Practices, the plan for the next steps, and how educators will be and can be involved throughout the process.

### **Working for you in big ways! An Overview of Two Major Web Tools for Aquatic Educators, [www.WaterWorksWonders.org](http://www.WaterWorksWonders.org), and [www.RBFF-Education.org](http://www.RBFF-Education.org)**

Jen Patterson  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation

WaterWorksWonders.org is the most comprehensive site on where to and how to boat and fish in the United States. The site includes every single body of water in the country in an easily navigable format. Reaching over 20,000 unique visitors each month, this site can help you spread the word about the resources in your state, including events and educational programs. Already, WaterWorksWonders.org is sending visitors to your state's web site for information. Come learn how to tailor your state's pages and make this site work even harder for you and your state.

Want to know what other educators have developed, or need information for a new program? RBFF-Education.org is the comprehensive database on existing aquatic education materials and programs you've been asking for. Beautifully organized by categories and searchable by key word, this site will lead you to thousands of existing resources, including curricula, publications, aquatic science information, and funding resources. See how easy it is to add links to your own materials, and to search for information that will help you in your efforts.

## **Re-cap of the Retailer Initiative: Results of the Wal-Mart Efforts – Panel Discussion**

Stephanie Hussey, Moderator  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation

Panelists:

Barb Gigar  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Lonnie Nelson  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

In conjunction with the Water Works Wonders™ advertising campaign and National Fishing and Boating Week 2002, Wal-Mart required all 2800 of their stores to participate in a nationally coordinated effort to increase awareness of and participation in fishing and boating.

Through their Take A Kid Fishing promotion, store managers were directed to host in-store events and promotions on June 1, and to team up with event organizers and sponsor on-the-water fishing events on June 8 in their community.

Recognizing varying levels of support and obstacles to partnering with a retail giant such as Wal-Mart, presenters will discuss their experience in working with local Wal-Mart stores. Hear from state representatives about what happened locally -- hear what worked...and what didn't work. How can this experience be built upon and what can be done differently next year? How could this partnership be strengthened to help advance agency aquatic and angler education objectives?

### **Passport to Fishing, Boating, and Aquatic Stewardship: An Updated "Pathway to Fishing" Event-based Program**

Stephanie Hussey  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation

In response to a need identified by the National Fishing and Boating Week Steering Committee (NFBWSC), the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation is developing an instructional event tool that expands upon the "Pathway to Fishing" concept and includes boating, aquatic stewardship, and fishing components. This "Passport to Fishing, Boating, and Aquatic Stewardship" is intended to be an event planning tool that can be utilized by event hosts throughout the year.

The "Passport" is being closely developed with a team of stakeholders with educational and events-based knowledge and experience, including representatives from the Aquatic Resources Education Association, American Sportfishing Association's Future Fisherman Foundation, National Marine Manufacturers Association's Discover Boating Program, and the NFBWSC.

The “Passport” is being developed and pilot tested with events with the goal of being easily and inexpensively accessible to event organizers. This presentation will summarize the development and review the basic content and structure of the “Passport” program, and discuss how and when the materials will be available.

**A National Plan for Aquatic Education: Aiming for validation and collaboration**

Jen Patterson, Moderator  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation

Panelists:

Hector Cruz-Lopez  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Jon Lyman  
Alaska Fish and Game Department

Carl Richardson  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

In May, RBFF hosted the first-ever National Aquatic Education Leadership Summit. Bringing together 40 leaders in aquatic education from fishing, boating, and conservation education who represented state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia and industry, the summit marked the beginning of new partnerships and efforts to make aquatic education more cohesive and effective. Hear from AREA representatives who were there for a first-hand account of what happened and what they hope to happen as a result.