

WAA The CREEL

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WAA June Picnic and Board Meeting Held at Nelson & Pade's Aquaponic Facility *Senator Jim Holperin Presented with WAA's Friend of Aquaculture Award*

The Annual WAA Member Picnic was held on June 17 at Nelson & Pade, Inc. in Montello. This was also the date for the summer quarterly WAA Board Meeting and the summer WAIAC meeting, both of which were held prior to the picnic. The day was hot, but over 30 came to tour the new aquaponics facility and enjoy some local farm raised tilapia along with an incredible salad made with 100% aquaponic grown ingredients. The tilapia was prepared 2 ways – a traditional shore lunch style and a coconut crusted recipe



Enjoying a tilapia lunch at the June picnic

with an apricot sauce (see the recipe on page 4). The garden salad used fresh Red Summer Crisp lettuce, Green Lollo lettuce, sweet corn (yes, corn!) kohlrabi, beets, cucumbers, beans, parsley and basil and was a testament to the variety of produce that can be

grown using an aquaponics system. A number of people either hadn't eaten tilapia before, or hadn't had fresh tilapia prepared this

well and Rebecca was complimented many times on the meal. While the food was being prepared, and throughout the afternoon, tours of the new facility were given.

At noon, Tim Winkel, Silver Moon Springs, presented Senator Jim Holperin with a Friend of Aquaculture Award. This was given in appreciation of Senator Holperin's efforts to make the Great Lakes Compact rule have less of an impact on small businesses than as it was originally drafted.



Tim Winkel presenting Senator Holperin with Friend of Aquaculture Award

Rebecca Nelson and John Pade became involved in hydroponics in 1985 and then in 1992 started focusing on aquaponics, which is the system of combining hydroponics with aquaculture. At this time they were in California and raised largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, koi and fancy goldfish along with various vegetable crops. They became more involved in aquaponics, starting up the Aquaponics Journal, producing *cont pg 8*

High Temperatures Impact Turnout for Aquaculture Day Open House

July 16 saw the celebration of Aquaculture Day in Wisconsin with WAA members holding open houses at their farms. There were fewer farms participating this year, mostly a result of cold spring temperatures which impacted yellow perch production. In all 8 farms participated - Rushing Waters Fisheries, Star Prairie Trout Farm, Silver Moon Springs, Wilderness Springs, Bullfrog's Eat My Fish Farm, Woods And Waters Enterprise, KP Simply Fresh and Coolidge Springs Trout Ranch. The temperatures in July, if you remember, were nearing record highs in many areas and some farms saw few visitors not only on Saturday but Sunday also. This year Katie Wirkus, 64th Alice in Dairyland, stopped by Woods & Waters to meet with visitors and give a talk. Randy said he had

about 25 visitors for the day, including a reporter from the State Farmer. Peter Fritsch, Rushing Waters, held a cooking demo and had live music with over 200 people producing his best Saturday so far for the summer. His state senator, Senator Kedzie, and a reporter also stopped by. Eric and Sue Holm, Coolidge Springs, Fifield, reported their best turnout yet for the open house with about 34 people, and a Park Falls reporter coming out to do a story. The largest turnout was at KP Simply Fresh - they had around 300 people as well as state and county legislators and a couple of reporters. As it happened, the Wisconsin Agriculturalist magazine ran an article on them on the front page of the July issue. WAA had sent out a press release to over 100 newspaper, radio and TV stations, and chamber of commerce/visitors centers promoting the Aquaculture Day Open House and also ran an ad in The Country Today for the 2 weeks prior (both these issues were handed out at Farm Technology Days in Marshfield). Hopefully next year the weather will cooperate!

The CREEL

September 2011 Volume 44* * * Number 3
WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION
www.wisconsinaquaculture.com

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WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSN. COMMITTEES

The following are committees that were formed at the June meeting. If you are interested in joining any committee, please contact any committee member. The effectiveness of our committees and our organization are based on membership participation.

Committee

Members

Business Development

Creation, review and development of business development tools for aquaculture

Peter Fritsch

Research & Education

Coordination and review of research, training, educational programming

Dan Gruendemann
Jim Held

Regulatory Policy

Coordination, review and impact assessment of regulatory actions

Dave Gollon
Terry Hogan
Ron Johnson

Budget

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Peter Fritsch
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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Active (voting): \$50/ year, Associate (non-voting): \$25/ year
Group(1 vote): \$75/ year, All memberships RUN NFROM January to
December and include annual subscription to *The CREEL*

The CREEL reaches many potential customers four times per year. If your business involves the growing or selling of any aquaculture product or any necessary equipment, feed or services, advertising will be a great benefit to you.

The CREEL goes to press the 1st of February, May, August, and November. Please submit photo-ready ad copy and payment to the Secretary/Editor 1 week prior to this for inclusion in the upcoming issue. Rates per issue are as follows:

1/8 page: \$30; 1/4 page: \$40; 1/2 page: \$60; Full page: \$100

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JEFF TAYLOR - STAR PRAIRIE TROUT FARM

What a first half this year has been! First it didn't seem like spring would ever arrive - delaying spawning, growth, algae blooms, etc. Then we went right into high temperatures - completely bypassing June & May - which held back people from getting out and about. And to top it off, we were left hanging for weeks while Congress argued about whose debt plan was better. Face it, if we took that long to make a decision about our farms, waiting until the last possible minute, we would all be managing mosquito hatcheries instead of fish farms. But, being a fish farmer, I am eternally optimistic that things can get better and I that will find that extra day to get another project done.

The one thing that we can do is to keep letting our state and federal legislators know about the importance of aquaculture to the economy. We may not be as big as the beef or chicken industries, but we do provide an important part in keeping people employed (even if it is just the husband and wife), providing locally produced, environmentally sustainable and safe food. I urge you to keep on hand the "Consumer's Guide for Wisconsin Farm Raised Fish", several copies of "Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry: Value and Economic Impact" and our Farm Raised Fish brochures and be familiar with the informa-

tion in them and to hand them out every opportunity you get, not only to the public (and you should view every customer as a potential voting advocate for aquaculture) but also to your local media and legislators. Keeping inviting them out to your farm to show them your operations, your successes and issues you are facing.

There are 2 fronts we need to deal with: 1) We need, as an industry group, to work to reduce the burden of regulations so that our businesses can stay in business and thrive. 2) The federal and state governments will be looking to cut as much funding and programs as possible over the next several years and it is up to us to be tenacious in our insistence of our industry's value to this country and its well being.

Gary Jensen, National Program Leader for Aquaculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Aquaculture, sent out a letter on his perspective of publicly funded aquaculture programs in the U.S., their future and what the aquaculture community needs to do to further the industry in this country. The letter can be found on our website WisconsinAquaculture.com

Jeff

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The CREEL is published quarterly, March, June, September and December; WAA welcomes input and involvement from all interested parties. Unless otherwise indicated, all articles are authored by *The CREEL* editor and/or WAA editorial committee. Editorial comments pertinent to other submissions are italicized and noted in parenthesis (ed.) All opinions expressed in *The CREEL* are those of the contributor/author and not necessarily those of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, its officers or directors.

WAA Board Chooses New Logo, Website Redesign Planned



The WAA board has been considering redoing the website and also the logo. So earlier this winter Chris Hartleb put WAA in contact with a UW-SP graphics class. The class came up with many different logos (29 in total) for the board to choose from. At the June meeting, the logo shown here was chosen. Eric Semling had submitted 3

designs of which the seal design was one. This logo will replace the one that is on the website and on our letterhead. The logo with the wave (the one on The Creel) was designed by Marcy Graham (formerly of Star Prairie Trout Farm). This logo works well for The Creel and will remain as it's logo.

Currently we are working on a complete redesign of the website. We want it to have a new look, have new categories for information, articles, resources, etc. and be more user friendly. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along to Cindy.

From the Editor - Cindy Johnson

It didn't take long to fill up this issue. We have been doing a lot this summer getting information out to farmers and teachers with workshops, attending events promoting aquaculture, etc.

Aquaculture needs some good face to face time with the public and WAA has participated in several events working to do that - WAAE conference, Farm Technology Days, Kid's Fishing Day. We promoted Aquaculture Day and the open houses at member's farms to get the public out to a farm - although the weather proved to be too much for some and they stayed home. A press release was sent out for August highlighting grilling recipes using Wisconsin farm raised fish. If your local paper didn't run it and you would like a copy to personally give to them, contact me and I will get one out to you. Remember, it is the squeaky wheel that gets greased.

One project that has been long overdue is an overhaul of our website. We are planning on making it more user friendly not only for you to be able to find information easier, but also for the public to learn more or to find a local farm and the media to encourage them to contact us for aquaculture information. If you have any suggestions, let me know - I have a list started of things that need changed.

The 2012 conference, scheduled for March 9&10, will be back at the Hotel Mead. We are planning topics & speakers, so let me know ASAP if you have any suggestions.

Cindy

Short term Funding Found for Aquaculture Specialists Positions

The earmark that U.S. Representative Dave Obey had secured for the last 5 years for the Aquaculture Specialists (2006-2010) was eliminated by Congress last fall. As a result, these 3 positions were scheduled to be terminated at the end of this fiscal year - June 30, 2011. Due to one of the specialists finding other employment and other funds being found, the 2 remaining specialists (Jim Held & Ron Johnson) will be funded through June 2012. At this time it is uncertain if any permanent funding can be secured to continue this program.

2011/2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WORKSHOPS

- August 13 Farm Pond Workshop, Merrill, WI
Cadwallader Farm
- August 27 Beg. Aquaculture Workshop, Baldwin, WI.
Future Farm
- September 17 Beg Aquaculture Workshop, Juneau, WI
Woods & Waters Enterprises, Inc.

MEETINGS

- September 9 WAA Quarterly Board Meeting, 10a-noon
George Meyer/Trail Farm,
N9110 Meyer Drive, Westboro, WI

2012 CONFERENCE

- March 9 & 10 Annual Wisconsin Aquaculture Conference
Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

THE COOK'S CORNER

Coconut Crusted Tilapia

- 1 cup unsweetened coconut
- 2 Tbl flour
- 1 Tbl Cajun seasoning
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 4 6 oz tilapia fillets
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup canola oil



Mix coconut, 2 Tbl flour, Cajun seasoning and garlic powder. Dip fillets in remaining flour, then egg and then coconut mixture. Press mixture onto fillets. Fry in coconut oil. Serve with apricot sauce.

Apricot Sauce - Mix together:

- 1/2 c apricot jam
- 2 tsp brown mustard
- 1 tsp horseradish

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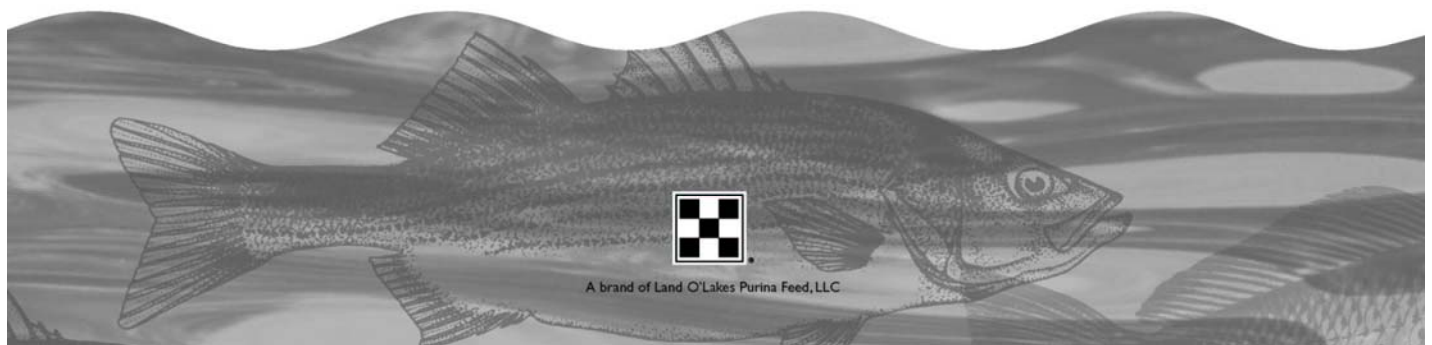


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Bits & Pieces

Bill would automatically award a permit if WDNR failed to meet deadlines

Under the Assembly Bill 177, failure of the DNR to issue a ruling on permits for structures, deposits and other activities in or near navigable waters within new timeframes would automatically grant the applicant the permit. Additionally, the bill would alleviate the applicant from facing the burden of proof in a contested case hearing, by shifting the burden to DNR if the applicant requests the hearing or to the entity requesting the hearing if anyone other than the applicant makes such a request. Neither the Assembly or Senate has taken any action on the bill.

The End of the Line

By [Bryan Walsh](#) Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2081796,00.html#ixzz1SZnCYdBI>

For the past 10,000 years most of our food has come from farming the land with the exception of fish. "Fish are the last wild food," says Paul Greenberg, author of *Four Fish*, one of the best books on the state of seafood. "And we're just realizing it." But we may be coming to that realization too late, because it turns out that even the fathomless depths of the oceans have limits.

USDA To Suspend Aquaculture Census Indefinitely

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the intention of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to indefinitely postpone the renewal of the Census of Aquaculture due to budgetary cutbacks. This census (conducted every five years) is a follow on survey to the Census of Agriculture. The last time this survey was conducted was in 2006 for the reference year of 2005. For further information contact: Joseph T. Reilly, Assoc Administrator, Nat Ag Statistics Svc, *cont pg 19*

Mark this date on your calendars!

2012 Conference

March 9 & 10

Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids

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A Visit to Quiet Springs Fish Farm

By Cindy Johnson

On July 11, Ron & I visited Mike and Barb Kelm, owners of Quiet Springs Farm on our way to Farm Tech Days which was held outside of Marshfield. Quiet Springs is located near the town of Arpin, so it was a short jaunt over to their place. Mike, Barb and their 2 sons, Jeff & Augie, lived in Sheboygan prior to Arpin, where Mike was working as an electrical engineer for Pemco, Inc. Mike had been interested in RAS and spent some time reading investigating and understanding the system and why some failed and some succeeded. They had purchased land near Arpin with the plan to get into perch farming and RAS at some point, but with rumors of layoffs, they decided on sooner than later and made the move in July 2003. Mike and Barb put up a building incorporating their house in one half and their RAS set up in the other half. As luck would have it, Mike was able to still work for Pemco while being based out of his home, - with some "on the road" assignments for the company, while Barb works for Fleet Farm.

Their farm consists of 7 tanks used for feed training and growout (2 -100 gallon, 1-500 gallon, 4-3000 gallon) plus some small larval ones (60- gallon) inside their pole building and 6 fry tanks that are outdoors. Mike has designed and built all of his systems. Some of



In the background is a 3,000 gallon tanks and the front right is a 1,000 gallon tank

the indoor tanks are made from 9,000 gallon, high density poly, vertical storage tanks which he cut into 3 sections to make three 3,000 gallon tanks, while 2 others were made from a 1,000 gallon plastic storage tanks, with the tops cut off.

The water in the tanks goes through a 4 part filtering and water adjustment system before being returned to the main tank. Mike uses a cone tank (swirl separator) for filtering the large solids out, a tank with a bead filter (1/8" solid poly beads) for the fine filtering, a tank filled with bio-balls for removing nitrogen and adding oxygen (bio-filtering) and a final tank used for adding any necessary items for water adjustment (pH, etc). He has bought off shelf items and assembled the tanks, tubes, valves, pumps, timers rather than

Cont on page 8



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Quiet Springs Fish Farm, cont from page 6

rely on preassembled working components, which have greatly reduced his cost of the systems.



Outdoor Fry Tanks

Quiet Springs buys eggs from another farm and puts them in the indoor incubation tanks. Mike prepares the outdoor larval tanks with a “bloom” of zooplankton and shortly after the eggs hatch he moves the fry outdoors. He closely monitors the

bloom and when it starts to decrease (and at this time the fry start to follow their natural tendency to move up to eating other fish), he brings them inside for feed training. The perch are about 1 – 1.25” at this point and Mike has learned that this stage, right before aggressive cannibalism starts, is an optimum time for feed training. Feed training is done better indoors as he can monitor the fish better and, since they are indoors, there is no chance of them getting natural feed, so they either eat the commercial feed or each other – and the commercial feed is easier to eat than chasing your tank mates.

Currently only the 500 and 1,000 gallon tanks are on line and with these Quiet Springs can handle about 7,000 market size perch. When installation of the 3,000 gallon tanks is finished, their capacity will greatly increase. With that in mind, Mike & Barb are also planning on building a processing area in the building. Demand for farm raised perch has been growing and they sell all that the farm is able to raise.

If you would like to visit their farm, they can be reached at 920-207-9877 or unicycle7408@gmail.com

Nelson & Pade, cont from page 1



Aquaponic Sweet Corn

cd’s videos and books on aquaponics (2 books and 4 cd’s/videos in all), offering workshops, and expanding their customer base throughout the United States. In the early 2000’s they consulted on the construction of several commercial scale aquaponics facilities and began offering their workshops overseas. In 2006 they made the decision to relocate to Wisconsin and picked the Montello area to set up their new headquarters. The initial facility was located on their home property and they ran workshops there while looking for a suitable location for a more permanent,

Nelson & Pade, cont

larger place for the green house, warehouse and offices. In 2010 they found some property in Montello with buildings for office space and a warehouse, and they built a new 5,000 sq ft demonstration greenhouse. Since moving to their new location



Jim Held and John Pade inside the greenhouse

they have held aquaponics workshops and extended stay learning programs attended by over 400 people from 34 states and 16 countries; shipped *Clear Flow Aquaponic Systems*® to customers in North America, the Car-

ibbean, Europe and Asia; and are closely involved in the installation of the first *Living Food Bank*® Aquaponic System in Haiti.

Cont on page 9

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Nelson & Pade, cont from page 8

Their new demonstration greenhouse contains 4 - 500 gallon fish tanks that provide nutrients for 2800 individual plant sites for leafy crops and 96 plant sites for vine crops. The 500 gallon tanks are typically stocked with about 175 fish, at 50 grams each. It takes 26 weeks to raise tilapia from 50 grams to 600 grams (1.5 lb), so they can get two harvests a year from each fish tank which results in about 3500 lbs of fish, plus approximately 50,000 heads of lettuce (or other greens) and 5,000 lbs. of tomatoes (or other vine crops like cucumbers). It takes about 3 weeks to grow the lettuce from seedling to maturity under ideal light levels. All of their systems are fully integrated *Clear Flow Aquaponic Systems®*.

In addition to the 4 large tanks, they also have a fish nursery, fish purge system and home food production systems on display in the greenhouse. Beside the basic greens and vegetables already mentioned, they grow a variety of crops to demonstrate the diversity of what aquaponics can produce. This summer, they produced sweet corn, beets, radishes, green beans, peas, bell peppers, chili peppers, tomatoes, kohlrabi, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy, basil, parsley, chives and lots of lettuce.

If you would like more information, visit the website: Aquaponics.com or call 608-297-8708.

Private Stocking Permits Update

Re: Permit Condition #6

Paul Cunningham,
W-DNR, Fisheries Policy Ecologist

Permit condition #6 reads as follows: **To prevent or control the spread of the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus, fish may not be moved or stocked into non-VHS infected waters from VHS infected waters, including fish farms that are directly connected to any VHS infected water. VHS infected waters are defined to be Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Winnebago System and their tributaries upstream to the first dam or barrier impassable to fish.**

For the purposes of permit condition #6, the term "**directly connected**" is met to apply when any one of the following occur:

- 1) Surface water diversions from the VHS affected waters into the farm are present.
- 2) Fish barriers between VHS affected waters and the farm are absent or not adequately maintained.
- 3) Feral fish originating from adjacent VHS affected waters are found on the farm.
- 4) A 50-year flood frequency event will inundate overland areas between the VHS affected water and the farm (i.e.. at this point fish barriers are ineffective and flow reversals occur)

WAA and WI Aquaculture Extension Staff Attend the 12th Annual Kids Fishing Day at NGLVC

WAA and UW-Ext Aquaculture had a booth at the Kid's Fishing Day on June 4. This year again saw an increase in attendance with 349 kids and 229 adults. Ron Johnson (UW Aqua Specialist) & Cindy Johnson (WAA) answered questions from kids and adults on aquaculture and handed out fact sheets and aquaculture brochures. Following is the story on the event.

Cont on page 10

One of the
Hundreds of
Happy Kids Who
Caught a Fish
At Kid's Fishing
Day



Upcoming Beginning Aquaculture Workshops

**August 27 - Baldwin
includes tour of Future Farm
aquaponics facility**

**September 17 - Juneau
includes tour of Woods &
Waters fish farm**

For registration, workshop information
visit WisconsinAquaculture.com,
Email Cindy@WisconsinAquaculture.com
or call 715-373-2990

It's A Keeper!

Susan B. Nelson, Interpretive Services Specialist
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Each year the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center hosts a Chequamegon Bay Kids Fishing Day event that draws 500-600 participants from northern Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Northeastern Minnesota and other U.S. travelers that stop by the visitor center. The purpose of this event is to teach local families techniques needed for successful, sustainable fishing, and to encourage these families to fish on their own. This event features the **"Pathways to Fishing"** clinic where families rotate through stations. Kids learn about stocking programs, fish structure, where fish live, what fish eat, and how to catch them. Fishing regulations and boating safety tips, baits, tackle box essentials, rods and reels, how to tie knots, and casting techniques are taught to youth through hands-on activities. We also teach proper catch-and-release techniques, how to clean a fish, and how invasive species can adversely affect fish, and other animals and plants that live in aquatic environments. Upon completing all stations, families go outside to practice casting, and then have a chance to try their luck in the Center's pond. Afterwards, children can make a Geotaku craft activity, which involves painting on a rubber fish and transferring the image onto a bandana. Kids also learn how to tie flies which they can then take home. Each child received a free starter tackle kit and door prizes, all of which were donated by tackle companies and local bait shops. Kids also tour a U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Vessel and learn about equipment used for water rescues. Best of all they can sit behind the wheel, beep the horn, and turn on the flashing signals and sirens!



In May 2010, 800 bluegill and 200 perch were introduced into the Visitor Center pond. These fish were donated by Gollon Bait & Fish Farm in conjunction with a grant from Fortune Fish Company and Rushing Waters Fisheries. In June 2011, Kasco Marine donated a Robust-Aire Aquatic Aeration System to help keep oxygen levels consistent throughout the year and also eliminate the threat of winter kill which had been a problem in the past. This generous donation also helps to reduce algae build up, keeps the water cooler in warmer weather and improves the overall health of the fishery. Kasco Sales Manager, Joe Holz, installed the system and demonstrated the diffuser operation to visitor center staff. This generous donation has provided the visitor center with a sustainable fishery that will continue to provide enjoyment for children in years to come.

Staffing Updates

Jim Held has been re-appointed as the Wisconsin representative on the NCRAC Technical Committee/Extension Subcommittee. On making the announcement, Dean Klemme stated, "Jim serves as one of two UW-Extension aquaculture specialists in Wisconsin. He works closely with the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association and along with his colleague Ron Johnson provides research-based information to the aquaculture industry in Wisconsin."

Several of you have already met Colin Bennell's replacement for Animal Health Inspector, Melissa Cochran. She is in DATCP's Division of Animal Health. Her contact information is (715) 577-5183, Melissa.cochran@wisconsin.gov.

Jeff Malison, co-director of NADF, has retired from UW-Madison. He and Leann are now residing in Mercer and working on their new home.

WAA and WI Aquaculture Specialist Attend Farm Technology Days in Marshfield Ron Johnson, UW-Ext Aquaculture Specialist

The Wisconsin Aquaculture Extension Program in conjunction with the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association (WAA) was again part of the 57th annual Farm Technology Days (formerly Farm Progress Days) on July 12-14 at the Seehafer Acres farm in Marshfield. This year the Wisconsin Aquaculture booth staffed by Ron and Cindy Johnson was located in the Applied Technology Tent and focused on management of farm ponds in Wisconsin. We tag teamed with Tom Cadwallader, just retired Agriculture Extension Agent in Marathon, Langlade, and Lincoln Counties; Ken and Karen Seehafer, Owners of the host farm; and Bob Robinson, Kasco Marine, Inc. The four of us met in early April to strategize how to best incorporate the farm pond on Seehafer Acres to tell the story about farm ponds and their management. It was decided to have the Aquaculture Booth in the Applied Technology Tent which is closest to the pickup station for the farm tours, Kasco Marine would have a staffed demonstration with aerators at the pond and a script was written for the volunteers to read as the tractor wagon tour stopped at the pond. The largest segment of DATCP registered fish farms in Wisconsin (over 2000) are farm ponds, some of which are managed for recreation, wildlife or aquaculture and some are not managed at all, therefore becoming a burden for the owners. The aquaculture extension program receives numerous calls each year on "How can I get rid of the weeds", or "Why does my pond smell bad now, it never use to", or "How do I get fish for my pond?" Jim Held and I addressed these questions and others by developing a Wisconsin Farm Pond Management Fact Sheet which was handed out at the booth and we will be conducting a Farm Pond Management Workshop on August 13, 2011 at Tom Cadwallader's farm near Merrill. It was estimated that 60,000 visitors were at the three day event, and while only a small percentage stopped by the Aquaculture booth, thousands did partake in the farm tour with a stop at the pond. This tag team approach worked well as we had many visitors come to the tent to ask specific pond questions and wanting brochure on the pond workshop. Bob Robinson and Joe Holtz did a great job explaining the benefits of aeration to farm *Cont pg on 11*

ponds and directed visitors back to the aquaculture booth for more details.

The aquaculture booth also promoted the statewide Aquaculture Day on Saturday July 16th which was only a few days after Farm Technology Days. We had many people ask about farm raised fish and the differences between wild and farm raised. Two women from the Wausau area told us they had stopped eating fish because they had heard so much negative news about containments and were afraid to eat fish even though they knew fish had good nutritional value. We talked to them and showed them the Wisconsin Consumers Guide to Farm Raised Fish and convinced them to take advantage of the Aquaculture Day by visiting a farm near them; we suggested they visit Silver Moon Springs. Tim Winkel, owner of Silver Moon Springs, told me the women did stop by that Saturday and he again went over the facts about farm raised fish. They ended up



buying trout from him and said they were glad they stopped by our booth and are now better informed, and will again start eating fish. Rarely do we have the opportunity, in our work of promoting aquaculture, to make a full circle connection like this example, but it is rewarding to see. These venues allow us to promote Wisconsin Aquaculture and support the industry. If you haven't attended Farm Technology Days in the past or recently, plan now to attend next year's event which will be held near New London in Outagamie County July 17-19, 2012. Aquaculture is agriculture and what better way to promote the industry than farmer to farmer.

Coldwater Species Culture Workshop Held on June 8-9 in Bayfield Ron Johnson, UW-Ext Aquaculture Specialist

The UWSP – NADF Fifth Annual Aquaculture Field Day and Vendor Fair was held June 8-9, 2011 in Bayfield and Red Cliff with the topic this year "Cold Water Fish Culture." Greg Fischer did a great job bringing in speakers from West Virginia, Alberta, Montana, Maine and Wisconsin to discuss topics ranging from new advances in the culture of coldwater species to feed and nutrition studies. There were seven companies represented in the Vendor Fair and in all 82 people attended. Cold water aquaculture is the oldest sector in Wisconsin with farms dating back to the mid 1800's; rainbow trout is the predominant species for food fish while brook *cont on page 12*



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Coldwater Species Workshop, cont from page 11

and brown trout are raised for stocking. NADF has been exploring other species like Arctic char and coho salmon as possible species for Wisconsin aquaculture and reported on the continuing Arctic char project at NADF.

The workshop started off with opening remarks from Christopher Cirimo, Dean of Letters and Science at UWSP and a welcome from Mark Abeles-Allison, Bayfield County Administrator. The opening session included a History of Coldwater Aquaculture in Wisconsin and followed by Peter Fritch, Co-Owner/Manager of Rushing Waters Fisheries who gave an overview of his farm. Dr. Steve Summerfelt gave a presentation on rainbow trout culture at the

Freshwater Institute in West Virginia and Dr. Greg Weber talked about polyploidy in salmon aquaculture. The morning sessions were rounded out with a talk by



Dr. Gary Burr on Atlantic salmon and Arctic char breeding programs.

Greg Fischer kicked off the afternoon session with an update on the Arctic char project at NADF, showing the remarkable growth rates and good densities that have been achieved. Dr. Gary Burr followed with a talk on coldwater species nutrition and then Bruce Swift from Alberta, Canada talked about his farm, coho farming and coldwater aquaponic culture. The group toured Bay Fisheries for a fish processing demonstration before spending the afternoon at NADF touring the facility. The evening concluded with a fireside fish fry at Sand Bay Park on the shore of Lake Superior as the fog and mist rolled in but didn't dampen the spirits of those attending.



The second day started with a talk by Jim Held presenting the data of the NADF/AOVA rainbow trout study. Jim was able to sift through the data to show that although the statistics were inconclusive in the study, by looking at the dollar outcome a significant cost benefit for using the AOVA product was shown. Dr. Summerfelt gave a second talk about photoperiod in the perfor-

Cont on pg 13



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mance of Atlantic salmon, Arctic char and coho salmon which was follow by a presentation on fish health in coldwater RAS by Dr. Christopher Good . The morning finished with talks about using low technology solutions at Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and water reuse systems for salmon and steelhead by Dr. Good.

After lunch the group left for tours of Les Voigt (Bayfield) state hatchery and a tour of the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery. Evaluations from the attendees showed a very favorable response to the format and content of the presentations. The field day venue incorporating speaker presentations and tours has been successful to bring fish farmers, researchers, vendors and interested parties together to share information and get to know one another.



Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility
UWSP-NADF Technical Facility
Project Updates-July 2011
 By Greg Fischer, Facility Manager

2010-2011 ADD Walleye/Hybrid Walleye Project - July Update

Facility staff successfully raised and provided approximately 80,000 walleye and hybrid walleye to 8 registered Wisconsin fish farms that are interested in raising walleye and hybrid walleye for food fish in the coming year. We are continuing to work with and collecting information on the rearing and survival of these fish from the farmers. Facility staff successfully reared and spawned our first group of intensively reared broodstock walleye and sauger this spring to create an early spawn NADF hybrid walleye. These fish have survived and are growing quickly with fish already over 5 inches. We are continuing to rear and collect data on these early spawn and several thousand regular spawn walleye and saugeye fingerlings under intensive, indoor conditions in a recirculating aquaculture system at NADF. Facility staff are also working on developing several lines of intensively grown walleye and sauger broodstock that will be utilized in the future for the creation of hybrid walleye. With the assistance of the WIDNR and several local sportsfishing group 2,500 advanced growth yearling walleye (12-15") that were raised entirely on commercial feed intensively in a warmwater RAS at NADF, were stocked in



June into Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior. In cooperation with LCO Tribe and local sportsfishing groups the facility is continuing to

raise extended growth walleye in several outdoor ponds as a demonstration project for future restocking efforts by these groups.

2010-2011 Arctic Char Project-July Update

Facility staff successfully raised and provided approximately 6,000 pounds of arctic char to Wisconsin fish farms that are interested in raising them for food fish in the future. The arctic char showed tremendous growth potential and reached an average of 2.0 lbs within 18 months from egg. The fish were part of a research

experiment exploring the effects of temperature and light on growth and performance of the fish while being reared in



a coldwater recycle system at NADF. This project was undertaken in cooperation with Dr. Steve Summerfelt of the Freshwater Institute, W.VA and Dr. Bill Wolters of USDA ARS Research Center, Maine.

**WAA Has Booth at WAAE Conference
WI Aqua Specialists Hold Workshop for Teachers**

Ron Johnson, UW-Ext Aquaculture Specialist

Wisconsin aquaculture was again on hand for the 93rd annual Wisconsin Association of Agriculture Educators (WAAE) conference, held this year on June 27-July 1st in Green Bay. WAA had a booth promoting Wisconsin aquaculture education, staffed by Cindy and Ron Johnson. WAAE is comprised of 310 middle school, high school, technical college and university educators. The focus of the association is to provide professional development, legislative support, and educational resources for teachers to enhance their local agriculture education programs. The WAA booth highlights Wisconsin's aquaculture industry and provides resources for the educators to use in their classrooms when teaching aquaculture. Over 50 schools teach aquaculture and/or have fish tanks and systems in Wisconsin. WAA participated in the WAAE annual raffle with a donation of 100 yellow perch fry by Jim Lehman, Taal Lake Hatchery (won by Grace Roberts, Dodgeland HS) and a Perch Spawning dvd by NADF (won by Jason Hovell, Independence School District). The Wisconsin Aquaculture Outreach Specialists Ron Johnson and Jim Held also participated in the WAAE conference *Cont on pg 14*

by hosting an aquaculture workshop on Monday June 27th, the workshops provide the teachers material they can use in their classrooms, and they receive continuation education credits for attending. This year's workshop focused on water quality and testing of aquaculture systems used in schools, problems that arise in managing the tanks and discussions were held on how to fix them. Twenty two teachers attended the workshop.

and growth. Understanding what a particular fish species prefers for parameters such as water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, total suspended solids (TSS), total gas pressure and water velocity is important so we, as aquaculturists, can provide an optimum environment in which to raise the particular species of fish we are interested in. For example; we raise the arctic char in our cold-water recycle system at 54°F with a minimum of 7.0ppm dissolved oxygen with low TSS and adequate flow to *cont on pg 15*

UW-SP Northern Aquaculture
Demonstration Facility



HATCHERY TIPS

By Greg Fischer, Facility Manager

Fish Biology Understanding Your Fish 101

Understanding basic fish biology for the species of fish you are interested in raising is the first step to a successful operation. Understanding how the specific species of fish feeds and the environment that species of fish prefers is critical to understanding how to raise them. To often we do not understand the basic biology of the fish before we try to raise them. For example; here at NADF we have had good success raising walleye, sauger, and hybrids utilizing a high protein slow sinking feed that is fed under low light conditions. This makes sense if you understand the basic biology of walleyes and how they have evolved to feed in low light conditions. Walleyes have specialized cells in their eyes that are collectively called the tapetum lucideum. These cells allow them to see well in low light conditions and this is what also causes their eyes to glow if a light is shown on them. Walleye commonly forage on yellow perch which do not have good low light level eyesight, hence the perch are at a disadvantage during these times and the walleye take advantage and eat them. So feeding your pond reared walleye in the middle of a sunny day may not be the best time. Rather, it would be better to feed them in the early morning or evening during low light conditions.

Basic fish biology can also help us understand the correct environment to provide for the fish to maximize survival *continued*

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such we have experienced good growth rates, high survival and little fish health issues with these fish.

The message for this hatchery tip column is to understand the basic biology of your fish before ever trying to raise them. Provide the fish with what they are seeking naturally and you will find much better success with your fish rearing operation. There are many, many great resources available to provide basic biological information on various fish species. Check online and contact the aquaculture extension specialists to get started in the right direction. As always, good luck and don't be afraid to contact the facility staff for technical help at 715-779-3461 or email: gfisher@uwsp.edu

Analysis of a Purina Aquamax and a Purina Experimental Diet for Rainbow Trout based on Protein Content

Rebecca Philipps, UWSP -NADF Summer Intern 2010
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

The entire paper with graphs can be found at WisconsinAquaculture.com

Abstract

From July 12th 2010 through August 16th 2010 Rainbow Trout fingerlings were grown at Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility. Two Purina diets were tested: Purina Aquamax Grower 500 (41% crude protein, 4% crude fiber) and Purina Experimental High Protein feed (56.5% crude protein, 2.5% crude fiber, 4.0% starch). The two feeds were distributed to the trout in separate raceways, each with three 80 ft³ compartments. All compartments were fed twice daily at 1.2% total body weight. Both feeds had high survival rates of greater than 99.5%. After the five week growth study, the growths were compared using percent gain in weight and length, food conversion ratios, and condition factors in order to determine whether the higher protein content affected the growth of Rainbow Trout fingerlings.

Results

Over the course of the five-week study, water temperatures averaged 9.5°C, dissolved oxygen was above *Continued*

9.91 mg/l, and pH ranged 7.60 to 8.70.

During the study there was only one mortality, this occurred due to the fish jumping out of the raceway. With survival rates of 99.6% it is apparent that both feeds gave the fish adequate nutrition for survival.

According to the t-test only weight was proven to be statistically significant. The percent change (graph 1) between weeks 2 to 3 and 3 to 4 were statistically different ($p\text{-value} \leq 0.05$). All lengths (weeks 1 through 6) and weights from weeks 1 to 2, 4 to 5, and 5 to 6 were not found to be statistically different ($p\text{-values} > 0.05$).

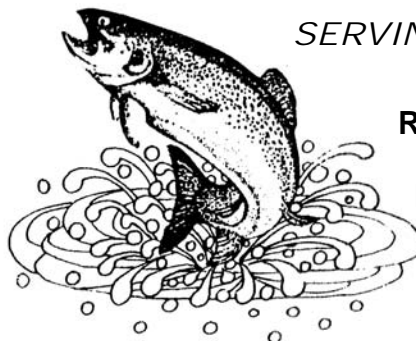
Discussion

With all other components being equal between the two raceways, the only experimental component that was different between the two treatments was the content of the two feeds. Companies that produce commercial fish feeds are constantly searching for something that will enhance the growth of the fish at a more rapid rate. "Both the quantity and quality of the diet influence the metabolic partition of the components" (Cho & Kaushik, 1990) but as very few companies release the ingredient lists of their experimental feeds, the quantities of *Continued on page 17*

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Steve Abernathy – Owner of Til-Tech Aquafarm, which produces Tilapia fingerlings in an indoor recirculating facility.



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Paul Williams – Owner of Owen and Williams Fish Farm, producers of game fish, grass carp, and catfish.



"We have a bunch of Kasco units and find them to be efficient, dependable, and portable. They are a good choice for our farm!"

Peter Fritsch – Farm Manager for Rushing Waters Trout Farm, the largest Rainbow Trout producer in the Midwest.

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protein, lipid, fats, and carbohydrates are difficult to assess.

Protein is of crucial importance to carnivorous fish such as rainbow trout so it has rightly been the ingredient of interest. Past studies (Lawson 1996, Okumus and Mazlum 2002, and Heinen et al. and Hankins 1993) have shown no growth differences in rainbow trout fed diets with protein contents of 38% to 65.5%. This was also seen in this study where rainbow trout were fed two diets with protein contents of 41% and 56.5%.

These results indicate that the limit to which rainbow trout can metabolize protein to increase growth may have already been reached, and that any future increases in protein in commercial feeds may not affect the growth rates. Accord-



Meghan Cornwall and Rebecca Philipps doing sample counts of the rainbow trout

ing to Cho and Kaushik, "the most efficient combination being a diet containing 36% digestible protein and 16% lipid" (Cho & Kaushik, 1990). Also, Watanabe et al. (1979) showed in studies that the sparing effect of lipids on dietary protein in rainbow trout was seen when optimum protein retention occurred where the protein to lipid ratio was 35% to 15-20%.

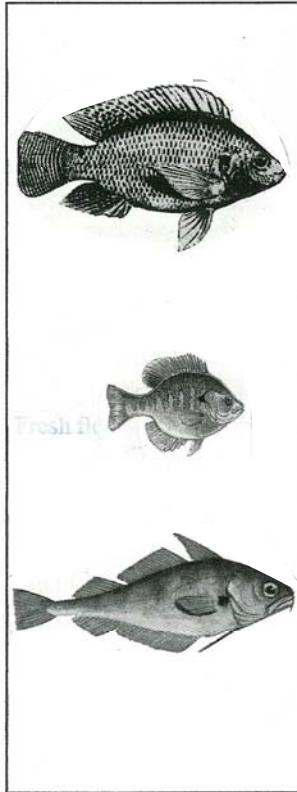
In this study, the Purina Aquamax and Purina experimental feeds showed that the greater amounts of protein in the experimental feed did not elicit the desired enhanced growth differences in rainbow trout. This same feed may be more effective for other fish species or in rainbow trout grown over a longer time period.

AQUATIC ECO-SYSTEMS INC. ACQUIRES GREEN SKY GROWERS

-- Acquisition Adds Depth to Organization; New Facility Permits Research and Development of Technologies, Furthering of Education and Hosting of Future Events --

Aquatic Eco-Systems Inc. (AES) of Apopka, FL, has announced that it has acquired Green Sky Growers, based in Winter Garden, FL. The acquisition became official June 1, 2011.

As a result of the acquisition, AES, operating under the name Green Sky Growers, will continue the hydroponic and aquaponic operations started by Bert Roper. *Cont pg 18*



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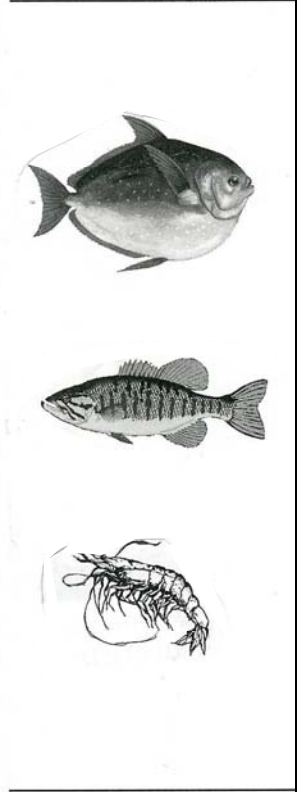
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Aquatic Eco-Systems Acquires Green Sky.

Continued from page 17

Mr. Roper released a statement saying, in part, *"The Roper family is pleased to welcome Aquatic Eco-Systems as the new owner of Green Sky Growers. AES has over 30 years of industry expertise and a worldwide outreach, and ... (will use) the rooftop site for both food production and as a learning facility for their clients from all over the world."*

In a statement about the acquisition, Todd Childress, President of Aquatic Eco-Systems, said, *"At AES we have been at the forefront in the development of innovative rooftop and urban growing systems. With Green Sky Growers, we are able to combine state-of-the-art technology with conventional and innovative growing techniques."*

Green Sky Growers will be a one-stop solution for new design ideas, existing garden troubleshooting, education and installation assistance. The facility will cater to commercial growers exploring new agricultural opportunities, homeowners looking for ways to efficiently grow plants and/or fish in their own back yard and those looking to tackle the emerging need for urban gardening.

With this new venture, Green Sky Growers will provide more high-end produce and exotic fish species to local restaurants

and grocers, and through the local farmers market and homegrown co-op. In addition to the fresh food that is available for purchase, AES will make Green Sky Growers THE hub for hydroponic and aquaponic education with a full curriculum of informational seminars and courses for those interested in learning more about hydroponic and aquaponic practices.

Childress looks optimistically to the future, concluding, *"It is our hope that Green Sky Growers will become synonymous with expert advice, the best quality products and the exceptional customer service that Aquatic Eco-Systems has provided the past 33 years."*

For more information about Green Sky Growers, facility tour information, a list of current products offered and company updates, visit www.GreenSkyGrowers.com.

About Aquatic Eco-Systems, Inc.

Aquatic Eco-Systems Inc. (AES) of Apopka, FL, is the largest source of aquatic products and systems worldwide, with over 13,000 products. AES offers unmatched selection, service and solutions to the aquatic community. AES staffs over 20 technicians and biologists to provide service, expert advice, troubleshooting and custom design solutions to hobbyists and professionals alike. For more information, visit AquaticEco.com or call 407-886-3939.

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DATCP Previews New Food Safety Resource

WI Depart of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection previewed a new on-farm food safety resource at the 2011 Farm Technology Days. This resource, which is part of the Wisconsin Local Food Marketing Guide, is found in Chapter 4 - Rules, Regulations, Licensing and Liability. Aquaculture is on page 113 of the Guide (pg 115 of the online version). The entire Guide (132 pages) is found http://datcp.wi.gov/uploads/Business/pdf/MK-DM-17_LFMG_Second_Edition_Final_Book_for_website.pdf

Large retailers fight catfish farmers over proposed USDA rule

Southern catfish farmers and a trade association representing Walmart and other retailers do not want US Agriculture Department catfish inspections to cover swai, basa and other Asian whitefish imports out of fear that fish imports would be cut, while US catfish farmers think these inspections should be done by the USDA to ensure safety for consumers. Full story: <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=43972&ndb=1&df=0>

US Department of Commerce/National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Release National Aquaculture Policies

Press Release (http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110609_aquaculture.html)

WASHINGTON – "Our current trade deficit in seafood is approximately \$9 billion," Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. "Encouraging and developing the U.S. aquaculture industry will result in economic growth and create jobs at home, support exports to global markets, and spur new innovations in technology to support the industry."

FDA Report 'Pathway to Global Product Safety and Quality'

The U.S. Food and Drug Admin today unveiled a new strategy to meet the challenges posed by rapidly rising imports of FDA-regulated products and a complex global supply chain in a report called the "Pathway to Global Product Safety and Quality." The FDA report calls for the agency to transform the way it conducts business and to act globally in order to promote and protect the health of U.S. consumers.

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute, Aqua Prog Research Rpt 2011

Utilizing Seafood Processing Trimmings in Diets of Farmed Marine Finfish

A large portion of seafood caught for human consumption is discarded despite the fact that the "trimmings" are an excellent source of high quality protein meal and oil. In order to make use of this underutilized resource and help relieve a burden on other exploited fisheries, HSWRI researchers are attempting to use processing trimmings to replace industrial fish meal and fish oil in aquaculture feeds for marine finfish. (Chris Nelson of Nelson and Sons Feed Co is one of the advisors).

Continued

Tests Reveal Mislabeling of Fish

Scientists have discovered rampant labeling fraud in fish sold to supermarkets and restaurants: cheap or overfished fish is often substituted for expensive fillets. Recent studies by researchers in North America and Europe harnessing new gene sequencer techniques, have consistently found 20 to 25 percent of the seafood products checked are fraudulently identified. Full story (<http://tinyurl.com/3nfxmk3>) [The Oceana report "Bait and Switch: How Seafood Fraud Hurts Our Oceans, Our Wallets and Our Health" is accessible at <http://tinyurl.com/3qf3xat>. ADS-Mod.]

WAA STORE

Books

- NCRAC -Sunfish Culture Guide - \$30
(Only 1 loose leaf copy left)
- Managing Wisconsin Fish Ponds - \$15
- Best Management Practices for Aquaculture - \$40 for WAA Members, \$45 non WAA Members

CD/DVD's

- NCRAC - Yellow Perch Cult. Man, cd - \$20 (2 left)
- UW -Spawning of Yellow Perch, dvd - \$10

Misc

- "Fish of Wisconsin" poster - \$5 ea or \$3 ea for 10
- Baseball Cap - faded denim w/ WAA logo - \$12

All prices include shipping

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A G E N D A S / M I N U T E S

Wisconsin Aquaculture Association
Quarterly Board Meeting
Sept 9, 10:00 am
Trail Farm, N9110 Meyer Drive, Westboro, WI

AGENDA

Minutes from 6-17-11 and approval
Treasurer Report and approval
Secretary Report
Committee Reports -
Regulatory
Business Development
Research & Education
2012 Conference
Website Update
Upcoming Workshops
Other Old Business
New Business
Adjourn

**WAA Board Meeting, June 17, 2011,
Nelson & Pade, Inc, W3731 State Route 23 ,
Montello, WI**

The Board Meeting was called to order 8:35 am by President Jeff Taylor.

Officers and Directors Present: Jeff Taylor, President; Dave Gollon (joined later), Board Chairman; Fritz Gollon, Mike Kelm, Rebecca Nelson, Directors; Cindy Johnson, Secretary. Terry Hogan, Vice President; Peter Fritsch, Dan Gruendemann and Rick Decker, Directors, were unable to attend.

Others present: Tim Winkel, Ron Johnson, Chris Hartleb, Barb Kelm, and Tom Miller.

Board Minutes from March 12, 2011
Mike Kelm made motion to accept, Rebecca Nelson, 2nd.

Annual Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2011
Fritz Gollon made motion to accept, Rebecca Nelson 2nd.

Financial Report
Rebecca Nelson made motion to accept, Mike Kelm 2nd.

WAA Logo
A new logo for the letterhead and website was discussed. The seal (option 1) from Eric Semling was selected.

WAA Website
The website needs to be redesigned to make it more user friendly on the public side and also on the administrative side. A motion was made to put a limit of \$2500 on the cost, Rebecca Nelson 1st, 2nd by Mike Kelm.
Cindy will ask for feedback and suggestions for the *continued*

redesign and will let the board know of the design quote.

Committees

Regulatory Committee

Tim Winkel discussed issues he is having with WPDES (Wisconsin Wastewater Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – ex. DNR wants limits on his fish production. This is because of a new classification of water that was implemented in the 1990's at which time the river was reclassified to a higher level than it was when the farm was started. Another issue is that the DNR is adding policy as part of the permit rather than just following the administrative code. This is of concern - if left uncontested, the policy will become law and will then affect other fish farms in the state. Other items of concern is that additional unneeded testing is also being required, causing an additional expense for the farm, and a low BOD (*Biochemical oxygen demand- a chemical procedure for determining the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms in a body of water to break down organic material present in a given water sample at certain temperature over a specific time period*) has been set which will cause additional fees to be implemented when the threshold is crossed. The date for public comments has ended, so a meeting will be requested with the DNR for further discussion. Implications of these issues on other farms in the state were discussed.

The motion was made that WAA is in disagreement with the more restrictive policy that is being written into Tim's WPDES permit, that clarification is needed on the conditions, and that a meeting is being requested with Dan Peerenboom, DNR and whoever else is involved. Dave Gollon 1st, Mike Kelm. 2nd, passed.

It was noted that a request has been made to DNR Secretary Stepp that the DNR Working Group be reinstated.

World Wildlife Fund Trout Dialogue – After discussion of the points raised by the US Trout Farmers Association on why they are not commenting on the proposed WWF draft standards on trout farming (these are not mandatory standards, and it is felt that commenting would only give credence to the organization's stance on fish farming), the motion was made to pull the comment letter that WAA drafted but had not sent yet. Dave Gollon 1st, Jeff Taylor 2nd.

EPA - Clean Water Act. - There has been no comment from the government yet.

It was brought up that all letters of comment that WAA sends needs to be copied to elected officials so they can keep abreast of issues dealing with aquaculture.

There will be a bait meeting after today's WAA and WAIAC meetings, on gambusia and best management practices (BMP). Recommendations coming from this meeting will be sent to the DNR

The proposed statute changes for aquaculture are being written. When they are done, they will be sent to the board to look over. These will be done as a comprehensive bill.

Continued on page 21

Business Development committee

WAA members were sent a list serv notice on the Guide to Wisconsin Farm Raised Fish. Jeff Taylor and Mike Bandli have a radio interview set up for next week discussing the Guide. There has been good response to the Guide.

Research Committee – Jim Held will make a report at the WAIAC meeting

Upcoming workshops, events

There will be 2 Beginning Aquaculture Workshops this summer – Sept 17 at Woods and Waters and one in northwest Wisconsin – a farm hasn't been confirmed yet

Farm Tech Days, July 12-14 – WAA will have a booth with the aquaculture specialists.

A workshop on farm ponds will be held on August 13. This will be promoted at Farm Tech Days

Jim Held is working on a tribal aquaculture workshop for 2012.

Future Conferences

2012 Conference

After looking at the quotes from several hotels, the first hotel choice for the 2012 conference is Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, 2nd choice is Holiday Inn in Manitowoc. The first choice for date is March 9 & 10, 2nd choice is March 16 & 17. Cindy Johnson will reconfirm the quote from the Hotel Mead, which was given last year. The entire board will make up the conference committee with Jeff Taylor as chairman. A conference call to start the selection of topics and speakers can be set up within the next month.

Joint meeting/conference with NCRAC

It was agreed to pursue this for 2013, location to be Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee.

Cindy Johnson said the date needs to be in February and we will need to avoid Aquaculture America Conference. It was suggested to try for the last weekend in February (before Aqua Am), 2nd choice is the weekend preceding. NCRAC will pay their own meeting costs (meeting rooms, meals) and we can have access to their members as speakers.

New Business

Chris Hartleb introduced Tom Miller. Tom is a part-time legislative liaison (not a lobbyist) for UWSP and does all press releases for the workshops, etc. Tom thanked WAA for working on budget issues with the legislature and suggested that maybe WAA and UW-SP can work together on aquaculture issues and focus on aquaculture as an emerging industry and as having job potential. Tom was given background on the regulatory history of aquaculture.

Money sources are being explored for the aquaculture extension. Ron Johnson said there is at least enough money from the federal earmark to fund him and Jim through the end of the calendar year. Since the fiscal year ends June 30, Chris Hartleb is *continued*

working to get an extension for them for the additional months.

September Meeting

Ron & Cindy visited George Meyer at Trail Farm yesterday (June 16) and George is willing to have the September board meeting at his place. The motion was made to have the meeting at Trail Farm, Dave Gollon 1st, Mike Kelm 2nd. When the date is confirmed, the board will be notified.

The board meeting was adjourned at 10:10am

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Johnson, Secretary.

Wisconsin Aquaculture Industry Advisory Council June 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Location: Nelson & Pade, W3731 Hwy 23, Montello, WI
10:00 – 12:00 pm

AGENDA

WAIAC Voting Members Present: Dave Gollon, Mike Kelm, Jeff Taylor and Bill West.

WAIAC Voting Members Excused: Peter Fritsch and Dan Gruendemann

Others in attendance: Mike Bandli, Ben Gollon, Fritz Gollon, Tim Gove, Chris Hartleb, Jim Held, Cindy Johnson, Ron Johnson, Sarah Kaatz, Rebecca Nelson, Dave Reto, and Tim Winkel.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:20 p.m.

Minutes from March 10, 2011:

Dave Gollon made a motion, with a second by Jeff Taylor to approve the March 10, 2011, WAIAC meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Council.

Work Team Reports:

Business Development –

Sections 1-6 of the *Consumer's Guide for Wisconsin Farm-Raised Fish* is now available on the NADF and WAA websites. Sections 7 (Bait); 8 (Stocking); and 9 (Aquatic Nuisance Species) are in process and currently being reviewed by industry representatives for additional information and edits. We hope to have these complete by the end of the summer.

As a result of the press release issued, Jeff Taylor and Mike Bandli will be on the Larry Meiller Radio Show, Wisconsin Public Radio, on June 23rd to speak about the guide and the upcoming Wisconsin Aquaculture Day.

Research and Education –

This year, we received 10 aquaculture/aquaponics-related proposals in the ADD Grant Program. The proposals represent approximately 20-25% of the proposals received. Some proposals were requesting funding to pay for systems and will not be funded. Depending on the status of the program within the State budget and potential budget lapses, it is likely several aquaculture projects may be funded. These projects should be announced later in the summer (late July).

The NADF has had several pre-proposals accepted *cont pg 22*

for the NCRAC Call for Proposals.

The NADF proposal for assessing the economic impact and value of stocked fish is currently the only proposal being considered for the economic impact priority area.

The NADF will also be participating in the multi-state project working to establish and test blue gill diet formulas. The NADF will take the place of Iowa St. which pulled out from the study. The study may also be applicable to perch producers.

The NADF has also completed its work on the AOVA Big Fish project. As reported at the NADF Open House, there appeared to be no scientific difference in growth of the fish fed AOVA diets versus other trout diets. However, the trials may have observed some inherent market value in the diets through a reduction of the number of culls within the groups of fish.

Identify preliminary topics for December WAIAC meeting: Bill West reminded the group that the industry needs to put forward ideas for NCRAC to be able to build their next call for proposals by the December meeting. As a result, the council suggested holding a brief conference call to put ideas together to submit to NCRAC. The call will be scheduled sometime in September in October.

Regulatory Policy –

DATCP is still in the midst of the rule making process and trying to get to the August or September board meeting for approval to go to hearings. Multiple retirements have created a back log and ACT 21 requires [additional] approval from the Governor's Office before a rule can move forward to hearings.

Industry representatives expressed a concern over any delay in getting notifications of renewals or responses to fish farm registrations and permits. In most cases, these need to be in hand for the fish farm to be able to legally do business. As a result, the farm is placed at risk of either losing sales or breaking the rules. The industry and DATCP need to work through several options: 1) an option to "evergreen" the farm registration or permits (to maintain validity until a new permit or registration can be issued) 2) better preplanning or 3) greater reliance on the current on-line registrations.

Legislative Update: The industry is working to establish a complete and comprehensive Aquaculture Legislation. The legislation would provide clearer definitions for aquaculture and establish a retail license to allow for sales off the farm. The legislation has been delayed due to the difficulties within the Wisconsin Legislature.

The WAA bait committee will meet following the WAA picnic to discuss Aquatic Nuisance Species - best management practices for preventing introduction of Gambusia/Mosquito fish. The industry is concerned about NR40, which may trigger investigations on fish farms as a result of any submitted concern from the public. Another concern of the industry is that it could set a precedent for disease (specifically VHS) to be classified as an invasive species. Because of its potential impact on agricultural policy, the industry has contacted Wisconsin Farm Bureau for assistance.

Continued

The industry requested a revision from the March WAIAC meeting to help clarify questions regarding stocking permits. The revisions were not received prior to the June WAIAC meeting. (*See article on page 9*)

WPDES permitting process – update

Rushing Waters has been working through the permit process with the DNR. The DNR has a back-log with a number of permits out of issuance up to 10 years. Rushing Waters permit has been out of issuance for several months.

Silver Moon Springs has also been requested to have a WPDES permit. The permit will likely limit farm production and impose a high cost (\$10,000 to \$12, 000/year).

The industry has requested a meeting be set between the DNR and the Aquaculture work group. The industry wants to make sure the language is clear and correct and without setting a precedent for the industry.

On a related note, the EPA sent out letters in May regarding a similar, very active, regulatory permit. Fish farms are encouraged to contact NADF Aquaculture Outreach Specialists, if they are dealing with a regulatory agency on these issues.

WAA Actions and discussion

The WAA decided to follow the lead of the US Trout Farmers Association and not send a letter to the World Wildlife Fund stating the WAA position on Third Party Certification.

The industry sees a need to solidify the NADF Extension Outreach positions and staff and is concerned about potentially losing them.

2011 WAIAC Membership and Activities

The DATCP Board approved all council appointments that were in front of them. The WAIAC appointments included confirming current members; extending Bill West's term to March 2014; removing Jim Pierce; appointing Jim Held and Ron Johnson as Ex-officio members; and appointing Mike Bandli to replace Will Hughes as the DATCP-DAD representative.

The December WAIAC Meeting date, time and location is yet to be determined. Typically, the December meeting is held at the site of the next Wisconsin Aquaculture Association conference.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dave Gollon and seconded by Jeff Taylor. Voting membership unanimously voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Bandli.

CLASSIFIEDS

Want to place an ad in the Creel? (Wanted, For Sale, Fish, Equipment) \$10/issue, up to 100 letters/spaces. Includes listing on WAA's website

WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Associate - \$25 - Receive 4 issues of The Creel, name & address listed on members search, inclusion on member only list serv for vital information

Active - \$50 - Benefits of Associate level, plus: active members can vote and serve on board, as officers or on WAIAC, listed on members search by business, processing, sales and fish species

Group - \$75 - 1 active membership and up to 4 associate members - farm/vendor employees, , agencies, university, etc.

Check here if your name, address, phone, fax or email has changed

Name _____ Title/Position _____

Business Name _____

Address- Mailing _____ Physical _____

City, State Zip Code _____

Phone: Home (will not be on website) _____ Business (on website) _____

Website _____ Email _____

Put me on WAA list serv ____ Yes (need email address) ____ No Put me on WAA printed directory ____ Yes ____ No

Business (check one): Wholesale Retail Recreational/Private Starting Tribal School
 Government Aquaculture Supplies/Products/Consulting/Insurance Veterinary Research/Laboratory
 Organization Other _____

Type of Membership: Renewal New

Active (\$50.00/year - voting) ____ Associate (\$25.00/year - non-voting) ____ Group (\$75.00/year) ____

For Group level includes 1 active member, up to 4 associates - list members name (designate active member)

ADVERTISING OPTIONS AND RATES

NEW - More options to advertise on WAA's web site

WAA now has 2 hot link categories to your website to choose from:

Industry Links, with subcategories of **Aquaculture Product, Live Fish and Misc.**

Consumer Links with subcategories of **Fee Fishing and Fresh/Smoked Fish, etc.**

Cost is \$20 a year for members, \$30 for non members.

Don't Have a Web Site? WAA has a special price of \$100 for a 1 page web site—includes 1-2 pictures, text description of your farm and contact info, your own stand alone domain name, your logo can be added. After that maintenance with changes is \$50/year. To see an existing page go to <http://donaldbloecherjr.com/>

Banner Ads: \$100/year

Advertise in "The Creel" - prices are per issue Full Page \$100; 1/2 Page \$60; 1/4 Page \$40

Creel classifieds: \$10/issue, up to 100 spaces/letters, will be added to web classifieds

Web classifieds are free

Send this form & a check or money order to: **WAA,**

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