Great Plains Natural Science Society Winter Newsletter 2013

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Happy New Year across the Plains and Beyond!!
Institution: South Dakota State University

Title: Graduate Research Assistant

Academic Background:
2006 B.S. Degree at South Dakota State University
   Major: Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences
   Minor: Biology
2009 M.S. Degree at Central Michigan University
   Major: Conservation Biology

Current Research/Project
My dissertation focuses on interactions between age-0 yellow perch and bluegill and elucidating factors influencing their subsequent recruitment in Nebraska Sandhill lakes. These lakes provide some of the best angling opportunities in the state of Nebraska and adjacent states, especially for bluegill and yellow perch. My research will identify recruitment bottlenecks (or periods of high mortality) during the early life stages (egg, larval, and juvenile), when most mortality typically occurs, by following year classes from larval to the adult life stage. Secondly, I will relate these bottlenecks to abiotic and biotic factors that influence recruitment to the adult life stage. This information will provide my funding agency, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), with a better understanding of bluegill and yellow perch population.
dynamics and the ability to more effectively manage these two important recreational and prey fishes. In addition, these results will provide information that until recently has not been reported or explored in relation to the complex interactions that occur between these two species at earlier life stages.

**Research Interests**: My research interests are broad but typically utilize basic ecological principles to address problems in fisheries management. I’m also very interested in the human dimension aspect of fisheries science, particularly addressing challenges associated with graduate school. Addressing challenges of graduate school will allow future students to better adapt and take advantage of the many opportunities encountered during the pursuit of a graduate degree, which has become more commonplace within the fisheries sciences.

**Fondest memory conducting research in the Great Plains**: While as an undergraduate student I had the opportunity to study fish diversity on one of the Missouri River mainstem reservoirs. This was an awesome experience which ultimately led me to pursue fisheries science as a career. There were several fond memories during this time including naming a side channel backwater area “Porkchop Lake”, not entirely filling up the gas tank for two fisheries PhD students, leaving them stranded (not a good memory at the time but comical now), and getting to know other technicians and graduate students better. More recently, I have been extremely fortunate to study fish in the Nebraska Sandhills, one of the most pristine and wild places within the state of Nebraska. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with my technicians while sampling these beautiful lakes. Specific memories include sampling with an airboat, filling the entire larval fish trawl with *Daphnia* (a zooplankter), pulling countless snapping turtles out of trap nets, and finding a northern pike that subsequently died after having a 9.5 inch bluegill lodged its throat!

**Personal interests and hobbies**: I enjoy hunting (particularly waterfowl), fishing (bluegill and smallmouth bass), camping, hiking, watching sports, spending time with friends and family, but most importantly spending time with my amazing wife Amy. As one wise man stated - “behind every good man is a great woman”.

*Mark Kaemingk continued*...
Fundraiser: The Kevin M. Honness Memorial Research Scholarship fundraiser in the form of a smorgasbord feed took place on October 24, 2012. People could donate $5.00 for a meal or receive a free meal with a renewal or new membership to the GPNSS. There were many features of the food fest which included: seafood and wild boar creole, calico beans, venison chili, barbecue, and various yummy desserts including banana bread and brownies. Thank you to everyone who “slaved away” and donated the wonderful food and helped during the feed! We had over 70 people partake in a Honness meal, received 5 new memberships (4 students, 1 professional), had a few renewals, and raised $304.19 for the Honness Memorial Research Scholarship (See page 5 for an application). We will be hosting another fundraiser this spring!

The Great Plains Natural Science Society established a student research award in honor of Kevin Honness. Kevin worked professionally for 20 years in federal and non-governmental roles in Africa and throughout the United States on bighorn sheep, wolves, and as a fisheries biologist. From 1998 to
2008, Kevin worked for the Turner Endangered Species Fund as a field biologist focused on restoring a self-sustaining population of swift fox to the mixed-grass prairies. His most recent endeavor was working toward a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. The Kevin M. Honness Memorial Research Scholarship will be awarded annually (April 1, 2013) and is NOW open to undergraduate and graduate student GPNSS members. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2013. Information for student applicants will be posted on the website: http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/tpn/announcements.cfm. Applications are provided in this issue (Pages 7-8).

Program MARK Workshop: The introductory level Program MARK Workshop to be given by Dr. Gary White, and held in Brookings, SD March 4-8, 2013 is finalized! This is being hosted by the Great Plains Natural Science Society and the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University. There are 53 registrants, and students can take this class for 2-credits at South Dakota State University. The workshop will provide biologists and graduate students with the basic background to understand the mainstream analyses performed by Program MARK. Additional information can be found at: http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/tpn/program-mark-workshop.cfm
Fall Student Symposium: Planning for a GPNSS student symposium is also underway. There will be updates about this event in future newsletters and on our website: http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/gpnss-workshops-and-conferences.cfm

GPNSS Conference Call: The Executive Council met on 6 November 2012 via conference call.

Council Members Frink, Geluso, Baydack, Jonas-Bratten, and Jenks were on the call.

Jenks provided an amended Treasurer’s Report: Total Balance of all accounts was $52,450.82.

Council discussed and approved the form and procedures for the Honness Award.

Council recommended that the Editor of The Prairie Naturalist determine the final outcome of manuscripts that were rejected from the Journal over the past year to ascertain if the current system of manuscript review was sufficient to ensure adequate manuscripts to maintain the current publication schedule for the Journal.

No other business was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan A. Jenks, Secretary-Treasurer
The Prairie Naturalist: The second issue of 2012 (Vol 44, issue 2) is about to be sent out to members! Look for them in your mailboxes! Visit: http://www.sdstate.edu/nrm/organizations/gpnss/tpn/index.cfm for more information about publishing in *The Prairie Naturalist*. We are always looking for articles concerning the natural history and ecology of the Great Plains.
Eligibility

The Honness Scholarship will be awarded to a student member of the Great Plains Natural Science Society. Preference will be given to students conducting research in the Great Plains.

Other Scholarship Materials

Transcripts, CV, and one letter of recommendation must accompany this application form. Send applications to Dr. Troy Grovenburg, The Great Plains Natural Science Society, Northern Plains Biostress Building 138, Box 2140B, Brookings, SD 57007 or e-mail materials to Dr. Troy Grovenburg at: Prairie.Naturalist@sdstate.edu.
Annual Meeting Announcement

Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

February 26-28, 2013

Comfort Inn, Bismarck, ND

Tuesday, February 26 – registration and welcoming social

Wednesday, February 27 – registration, papers and business meeting – awards banquet in the evening

Thursday, Feb. 28 - papers, adjourn by noon.

Make your reservations today!
Call the Comfort Inn directly at 701-223-1911 to make a reservation. Be sure to mention you are with Dakota Chapter AFS to ensure maximum benefits for the Chapter

First Call for Papers

All Aquatic and Fisheries Papers are Welcome!

Special session on energy development and its impacts on aquatic resources!
South Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society

The next annual meeting will be held February 25 – 27, 2013 at Cedar Shores Resort and Convention Center, Oacoma/Chamberlain, SD.

Reserve your room before January 26th by calling 1-888-697-6363. The room rate is $79.95 single/double occupancy and state rate will be accepted with proper identification.

Go to http://www.sdwildlife.org/index.htm for more information
Our 50th Anniversary is nearly upon us. Planning is underway on what promises to be a memorable event. A terrific program, looking at the Chapter’s accomplishments and a theme of *A Short Look Back and a Long Look Forward* promises to set the stage for the Chapter’s next 50 years. This summer’s Sportmans’ Harvest Raffle raised more than $2,000 to add to the financial foundation of the Celebration. Thanks to all who contributed and a special thanks to Keith Harmon. The Celebration will feature special keynote speakers, a video history of the Chapter, screening of Aldo Leopold’s “Green Fire” video, a student future scenario project, a commemorative program/padfolio including the Chapter’s History Project, and a display of conference program cover art. Check out the 50th Anniversary Committee Report for more details.

### 50th Anniversary Celebration

**February 2013**

**What was happening Three decades ago (1983)??**

- Sally Ride becomes first American woman in space...
- Reagan announces that GPS will be made available to the public.
- Martin Luther King Jr Holiday created.
- Michael Jackson “Thriller” tops charts.
- Final episode of *M*A*S*H*.
- Average Dodge Truck costs $5,600.
- Microsoft Word (1) is released.
- Cabbage Patch Dolls are a hit.
- Return of the Jedi, WarGames, Flashdance.
- Soviets shoot down Korean Airline.
- USFL’s first season of summer football.
- Reagan introduces “Star Wars.”
- Almost and Williston hit .500.

**For the Bibliography, from 1983:**

- ND v. United States - 460 U.S. 300 - U.S. obtained judgment that 1977 ND statutes restricting wetland easements associated with the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act were hostile to federal interests and previous consent gubernatorial consent.
Upcoming Meetings Throughout The Plains

**Colorado**

**Montana**

**Nebraska**

**New Mexico/Arizona**

**North Dakota**

**Texas**


**Other**
The Great Plains Natural Science Society

Founded in 1967

Membership Information:

Students: $15        Individuals: $25

Library subscriptions: $50

Life Memberships: $250 payable in 1 – 3 annual installments

All prices are in US funds. Please add $5 for subscriptions sent to addresses outside the USA.

If a student, please include proof of student status

**All memberships include subscriptions to The Prairie Naturalist, The Society’s quarterly electronic newsletter and discounts to symposia and/or conferences.

Correspondence concerning membership should be directed to:

Dr. Troy Grovenburg, Assistant Editor
The Prairie Naturalist
Department of Natural Resource Management
South Dakota State University, Box 2140B, NPB Rm. 138
Brookings, SD 57007
Email: Prairie.Naturalist@sdstate.edu
Great Plains Natural Science Society Membership Application Form

Name: ______________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: ________________________________  State: _____________  Zip code:_____________________

Email (required for electronic newsletter delivery): _________________________________________

Are you a new member? Yes / No  If no, what was the last year you were a member? __________

Please select appropriate membership

☐ Student Membership - $15 annually

☐ Individual Membership - $25 annually

☐ Library Subscription - $50 annually

☐ Life Membership - $250 (payable in 1 – 3 installments)

☐ Donation in the amount of $_________ towards the Kevin Honness Memorial Scholarship Fund

Please select payment type:

☐ Check  ☐ Credit card  ☐ Purchase Order  ☐ Money Order

Enter credit card payment information and return this form to the address above.

☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Discover  ☐ American Express

Name of Cardholder: _____________________________  Daytime telephone #: __________________

Credit card number: ___________ - _______ - _______ - _______  Expiration date: ____________

Total Payment Amount: $ ____________
The Great Plains Natural Science Society

The Great Plains Natural Science Society, formerly the North Dakota Natural Science Society, was founded in 1967 and seeks to promote interest in and understanding of natural history in the Great Plains, to encourage the conservation of natural resources, and to provide communication among individuals, institutions, and organizations of like interests. The GPNSS actively promotes the study of natural history of the Great Plains region, including geology, plants, birds, mammals, fish, insects, and other forms of life.

Together with local, state, and national conservation organizations, the GPNSS fosters natural resource conservation and preservation of outstanding natural areas. The GPNSS publishes The Prairie Naturalist, a widely read, peer-reviewed journal that explores the natural history and environment of the Great Plains region.

GPNSS membership is diverse and includes many professional scientists. Society members have strong interests in sustainable management of Great Plains natural resources and their habitats. The natural history and ecology of the Great Plains is the primary focus and interest of the GPNSS; thus, the primary interests and goals of the Society promote increased scientific knowledge of the interactions of all Great Plains organisms with their natural environments, enhance professional stewardship of Great Plains natural resources and their habitats, and encourage the use of applied research for informing Great Plains natural resource policy decisions.

The GPNSS hosts annual meetings and hosts symposiums covering a broad spectrum of topics. Located within the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University, the GPNSS takes great pride in working with students, staff, and faculty to foster a greater understanding of the natural history and ecology of Northern Great Plains organisms and their biota.

Editors Note:

Feel free to contact me with any suggestions and comments about the newsletter. I would like to encourage submissions (e.g. summary of your research, upcoming meeting announcements, pictures, recipes) and ideas for the next issue. Contributions, comments and suggestions may be emailed at any time.

Sincerely,
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***Send your news for the next newsletter to:
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Your suggestions on topics/news items for the newsletter are welcome