

# Activities

**March 2009**

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## Research Highlight

Each year the National Cooperative Research Units (CRU) Program compiles a report of accomplishments achieved by the 39 Units ([www.cru.org](http://www.cru.org)). In 2008 the \$16 million program (about 100 scientists, there are 20 vacancies) was engaged in 365 projects for federal cooperators and 489 for state cooperators. Unit scientists taught 75 academic courses at their host universities and taught 46 workshops and short courses delivered to partners and cooperators. Unit scientists and students (there are 619 Unit students) produced 316 peer-reviewed publications, presented 607 scientific papers, and 79 invited seminars. Highest recognition was garnered by Drs. Mike Conroy (GA) and Wiley Kitchens (FL), who received the Meritorious Service Award from the Department of Interior for their scientific and technical contributions to the application of structured decision making and adaptive management. Their awards are in an area that is a new initiative for the Units – improve integration of our research, education, and technical assistance to make sustainable, science-based decisions.

In 2008 your South Dakota Unit had two scientists, one research associate, and 14 graduate research assistants. We produced our share of the products mentioned above and conducted research in four of the six science strategy directions of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – understanding ecosystem change, climate variability, energy, role of the environment in human health. Students and staff are gearing up for a productive summer field season.

## Research Accomplishments

New Pallid Sturgeon Research Project: Assistant Unit Leader Dr. Steven R. Chipps serves as co-principal investigator (with Brian Graeb and Robert Klumb) on a new project investigating early

life-history of pallid sturgeon. The new study will use empirical and experimental approaches to understanding factors such as prey selectivity, regional physiological adaptations, and drift dynamics of young pallid sturgeon. The project will support one Ph.D. student and one M.S. student.

Namakan Reservoir Sturgeon: Chipps met with staff from the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) to discuss lake sturgeon sampling and tracking (acoustic tags) in Namakan Reservoir. Several Coop Unit students will be assisting with gillnetting activities this May as part of the lake sturgeon research project. Blood samples obtained from pre-spawn fish will be used to document the reproductive status of lake sturgeon.

## Technical Assistance

To South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP): Chipps attended the winter fisheries meeting and participated in a panel discussion of urban fisheries development in South Dakota.

To South Dakota State University (SDSU) Graduate School: Chipps served as committee member for Dr. Jeffery Jolley, who successfully defended his dissertation on fish community interactions in Sandhill lakes. Unit Leader Dr. Charles R. Berry Jr. served on the M.S. committee of Ms. J. Remington on March 18; thesis was on neonatal care.

To American Fisheries Society (AFS) Rivers and Streams Technical Committee: Unit student Lucas Borgstrom organized and chaired the spring meeting (about 50 attendees) in the Quad Cities on March 19.

To SDSU Honors College: Berry attended an organizational meeting on March 23; planning is underway for a fall course in Public Understanding of Science.

To SDSU: Berry was invited by Kevin Kephart (Vice-President of Research) to attend a planning meeting (March 26) for developments along the north entrance of campus; the open pastures, streams and ponds have great “on campus” educational and esthetic potential, but revenue production is perhaps the main goal.

## Awards

Chipps was a co-author of two papers that won student paper awards at the 2009 Dakota Chapter AFS meeting in Bismarck.

1. Van De Hey, J. A., M. J. Fincel, and S. R. Chipps. 2009. Non-lethal sampling of walleye and yellow perch for stable isotope analysis: a comparison of three tissues. Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society, Bismarck, North Dakota.

2. Schaeffer, T. W., D. E. Spengler, C. W. Schoenebeck, M. L. Brown, and S. R. Chipps. 2009. Compensatory growth and metabolic responses of female yellow perch subjected to symmetric feed:fast cycles. Annual Meeting, Dakota Chapter, American Fisheries Society, Bismarck, North Dakota.

## Other

To South Dakota Academy of Science: Chipps is associate editor for Wildlife Proceedings of the Academy. Berry worked on the Year of Science Symposium to be held at the Annual Meeting, April 3-4, at Northern State University.

In the Newspaper: Berry was featured in an article about the Year of Science in the Brookings Register (see attached). A shorter note about Year of Science appeared in the Coop Catchup, the newsletter of the Coop Unit program.

## Training

Chipps and Berry received Certificates of Completion for the on-line course titled Federal Information Systems Security Awareness. The course is also required for SDSU staff who work with federal files and paperwork.

Berry received a Certificate of Completion for the on-line course titled Discrimination and Whistle Blowing in the Workplace (3/20/09)

3/2/09



Charles Berry, Jr.

## S.D. joins effort to celebrate the Year of Science

South Dakotans are being introduced to 2009 as the Year of Science.

The Year of Science is a nationwide effort to engage the American public in activities that stimulate interest in the process of science. COPUS (Coalition for the Public Understanding of Science) is one of the sponsors of the designated year.

"Research indicates that the public has a poor understanding of the nature of science," said Charles Berry, Jr., adjunct wildlife professor at South Dakota State University and coordinator of events statewide.

Berry serves as the SDSU liaison and co-chair of the South Dakota hub organizing Year of Science activities in the state. Through his position on the board of directors of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, Berry got involved to make his national colleagues aware of all of the science booming in South Dakota.

Observation of the year will also help raise awareness of the process and value of scientific research among South Dakota residents.

### Science literate public

"South Dakota needs a scientifically literate public to support our state's commitment to opening frontiers of knowledge about physics, health, energy and the environment and water resources in our state," said Berry.

He emphasized that general public understanding of science is a prerequisite for a skilled workforce and imperative for an educated public that can actively participate in making decisions for the state.

"A public that understands the process of science is a public that is able to make informed decisions about water use and protection, about the relative risks of medical treatments, and about other quality of life issues," said Berry.

The Year of Science won't end in January 2010, but nationwide hubs and partnered universities will continue to build networks and produce materials to promote general understanding and appreciation of science.

"The Year of Science is not about all of the facts in our textbooks, but about how those hypotheses, theories and laws were developed, or how we know what we know," said Berry.

### Year of Science resources

The Year of Science provides several online resources for educators of all levels to use, including [www.understandingscience.org](http://www.understandingscience.org), which gives a dynamic representation of the process behind scientific facts in textbooks.

Teachers can also join their efforts with the South Dakota Hubs at [www.copusproject.org](http://www.copusproject.org), or by contacting Berry at 605-688-6121.

General information about the national Year of Science is available at [www.yearof-science2009.org](http://www.yearof-science2009.org).

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