



Newsletter

Jan - Mar, 2010

ANNUAL MEETING

MAA 23RD ANNUAL MEETING will be **February 25th** at the Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel and Conference Center - Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. <http://www.mtpcomfortinn.com> For latest agenda updates and meeting times see <http://www.michiganaquaculture.com> Click on **2010 Annual Meeting** tab.

The January Newsletter issue has been combined into this issue and Registration and Membership Forms are included with this Newsletter issue. All registered Aquaculture Facilities receive this issue not withstanding membership with MAA.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS - 2010

The Office of **President** and **Director** are open this year. Russ Allen and Dan Vogler will be seeking reelection for this 2 year term. All Active and Sustaining Paid Members may also enter your name for either office on the ballot by calling either the Secretary-Treasurer (231/834-7720 Dave LaBomascus) or Vice-President (231/796-2284 Bob Baldwin)

OUR CONDOLENCE TO THE ALLEN FAMILY:

Elizabeth Crandall Allen - 52, Wife of Russ Allen of Okemos, Pottersville Public Schools teacher, died unexpectedly Thursday January 21st. Memorial services were held at 6 p.m. January 25th at Pottersville High School gymnasium. A memorial fund in Elizabeth's name has been set up at the school.

IN MEMORIAM:

Lewis, WI - The US aquaculture community lost two of its shining stars when Hugo and Ruby Kettula, the charismatic and popular owner-operators of Seven Pines Fishery, passed away in late November 2009.

Hugo, 87, died Nov. 27, just two days after Ruby, 78, lost her long and courageous battle with cancer on Nov. 25.

They were, to quote a friend in the Wisconsin aquaculture business, "Two fine people that had fun with what they were doing and made things fun for others."

Memorial services for Hugo and Ruby were held Dec. 12 at the United Methodist Church in Lewis.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **February 25, 2008** Mt Pleasant, Michigan
Michigan Aquaculture Association Annual Meeting For more information www.michiganaquaculture.com

- **March 19-20, 2010** Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Wisconsin Aquaculture Association Conference
(Please visit their website for more information at www.wisconsinaquaculture.com)

STATE NEWS

MDA Aquaculture Advisory Committee met January 22nd, Lansing to discuss current needs and updates of the pass year.

Highlights included:

- VHS respond plan in development phase,
- VHS current range within the Michigan waters as reported by Gary Whelan (DNR),
- Out of State vendors distributing live fish into Michigan stocking markets and health certificates requirements (or lack of),
- Planned visits by MDA to farm to help review biosecurity programs (or develop) for the register facilities,
- Forming a working committee to review the requirements of health forms for entering the State and addressing other known portions of the aquaculture industry not currently being regulated by MDA (i.e. ornamentals, aquarium, direct sales of sport fish not going to either register facilities or public waters.
- Also discussion of making information available to the register facilities in a timely manner when departmental requirements or decisions have been instituted (pre-entry permits),
- *Notice given that the department will not be offering field vet services or paying for any collecting/testing for the next calendar year, farms that need said service should contact their local accredited veterinarian for fish health inspection requirements.* DNR previous requirements in testing still apply this year as last.

NCRAC NEWS

Yellow Perch Culture Guide now available online:
<http://www.ncrac.org/NR/rdonlyres/6296E4D7-8D07-4CBD-BDC4-D7CE9FFD2212/0/YellowPerchPub.pdf>

North Central Region Aquaculture Contacts, Transport Regulations, and Approved Aquatic Species:
<http://www.ncrac.org/Info/StateImportRegs/stateregsmain.htm>

MAA CURRENT OFFICERS

President: Russ Allen

Seafood Solutions - 517/347-5537

Vice-President: Bob Baldwin

Aqua Springs - 231/796-2284

Secretary-Treasurer: Dave LaBomascus

Stoney Creek Fisheries - 231/834-7720

Director: Kent Herrick

Aquaculture Research Corp. - 734/323-7498

Director: Dan Vogler

Harrietta Hills Trout Farm - 231/389-2514

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Aquaculture Research Corporation's Kent Herrick

Aquaculture Research Corporation's (ARC) intent is to have a quality space for many diverse studies in the field of aquaculture. To accomplish this we are remodeling the ARC building in Tecumseh, MI. When complete we will have a 6000 sq ft state of the art aquaculture research facility. During our remodeling we have provided temporary employment to 38 people with around 5500 man hours. Our building now has 2 climate controlled brood stock rooms, a modern laboratory, a spacious grow out area, water treatment room, a conference room, plus abundant storage.



Our current focus is off season spawning of Yellow Perch in climate and light controlled situations, grow out systems, and feed options that work best for our system. Our future goals are to improve monitoring and control systems, automated processing systems, waste stream management and value enhancement. Our mission is to connect these different aspects of the aquaculture process and support the creation of a sustainable and affordable seafood industry in the Great Lakes Region.



MI STRATEGIC AQUACULTURE PLAN

MAA board members, and other interested parties, met several times during 2009 for the purpose of creating a "Strategic Aquaculture Plan" for the State of Michigan. MAA members realize that if aquaculture is to grow in Michigan, producers need to become organized and the MAA needs to become a strong group. Once completed, the plan will portray the current status and value of Michigan aquaculture production, the future potential for Michigan, and the steps required to achieve this potential. If you would like to get involved with the strategic plan committee, contact any MAA board member.

NCRAC News Chris Weeks

A new aquaculture information website has been published entitled "*NCR Aquaculture Roadmap*". The intent of the site is to help streamline aquaculture information to the NCR industry. It is now available for review at: <http://www.ncrac.org/roadmap/index.htm> A link from the NCRAC website will soon be made available.

This initial posting should be considered phase-1 of a 3-stage project:

Phase 1 – Provide access to existing aquaculture extension materials pertinent to aquaculture facilities in the region. Current information access draws from all RAC websites, but focuses on systems, species, contacts and concerns specific to the NCR. **(Complete)**

Phase 2 – Solicit input from regional experts and make available additional outreach material from across the NCR. Ideally we would make available, or identify where to find, all pertinent fact sheets and other publications developed for the NCR aquaculture industry, including materials produced by local extension (e.g. state) and academic personnel in each state. Convert /add materials (to the extent possible) to PDF files and build up a searchable database **(Started)**.

Phase 3 – Continue to build an aquaculture information database (extensively), refine the search engine, maintain updates, and monitor the website's use and effectiveness.

MSU Extension

Ron Kinnunen

A Seafood HACCP Course is being scheduled March 9, 10 and 11th at Bay Mills Michigan. Two more Biosecurity Workshops are to be held this year, but again the dates and locations have yet to be determined. <http://www.msue.msu.edu>.

Reprinted from Oct-Dec 2007 Newsletter and still holding true!

ROAD TO DES MOINES

By Bob Baldwin

This part of my adventure started about 20 years ago, as the research and writing of the Michigan Aquaculture Act was in its' beginning phases. Years ago, I had discovered some inconsistencies within State and Federal laws that I knew would have to be addressed at some future time, but first we needed to establish an Aquaculture Industry and take up aquatic health issues later. The years went by and then VHSv showed up in the Great Lakes Basin with USDA-APHIS Quarantine of the Great Lakes basin States - Oct 24, 2006. "Aquatic Health Issues" now have the front and center stage and must be addressed by Industry, State, Federal and International Trading Partners.

The Problem

Just who is in charge of Aquatic Animal Health Issues? On one hand, the Resource Agencies have laid claim to this subject (US-FWS or State's DNR's). On the other hand, reading Federal regulations - it was the Agriculture Department (USDA-APHIS) that had regulatory control over all animals. Digging deeper, it is surprising just how many agencies that would like to lay claim to this authority, **but too many cook's make lousy soup!**

At present, the Aquaculture Industry is struggling to find a path of central regulatory authority, standard testing parameters and uniform interstate health certificates. For the eight Great Lakes States, along with Pennsylvania and New York, each State have gone their own way with regulation requirements - which has led to confusion when interstate commerce (and regulatory confusion within each State) is being conducted. For many of us within the Industry, whether Private or Government, enough is enough. This is what brought us to the "Aquatic Livestock Commerce Forum" at Des Moines, Iowa November 15-16th.

The forum was designed to explore State and Federal regulations that are impacting the profitable and efficient interstate movement of aquatic livestock for both private and public uses, in hopes of finding consistent uniform standards for the North Central Region (NCR) and beyond. Goals and discussions about changing policy, laws, or regulations to permit cultured aquatic species to be moved within a regulatory framework, similar to other livestock. Points for improvement and revision of state regulations and policies were discussed whereby aquatic livestock for both private and public purposes can be enhanced in 2008.

Invited participants were private and public aquatic livestock producers, livestock health representatives, state agriculture and natural resources regulators from the NCR. The forum sponsors were the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) and Iowa State University. Organizational team was Joe Morris, Rich Clayton, David Starling and Bob Baldwin. As a member of the organizational team, I would

like to thank our Sponsors of the Forum in helping to bring this event together.

So What Happen?

As you might have guessed, this meeting of the minds was something very different than previous meetings had been. Here we had State Vets, Producers (both Private and Public), Extension and Field Vets in the same room and they were painfully aware that the US Aquaculture Industry (especially in the Upper Midwest) is facing a critical point in its' future. The lack of a uniform testing policy, interstate health certificates and primary agency responsibilities were showing all of us what CHAOS looked like! It didn't take long as a group to point out the various issues that were on their minds, and it wasn't surprising to any of us that we were talking about the same issues from each State. Once we had our issues of discussion highlighted, we took time to rank them in order to prioritize the issues. Top three were: Need for uniform certificate standards, uniform sampling/testing guidelines and access to health professionals.

The Alliance

The forum attendees came to terms with the philosophy that we must pursue and educate the various State, Federal and Private representatives dealing with Aquaculture, that the current direction of aquaculture was headed on was only a course for disaster. Further, we had to work on educating the regulatory agencies and help guide the regulatory environment towards an uniform set of standards. Therefore, the founding members agreed to the formation of an Alliance. An Executive Committee of five was chosen and also agreed to establish a website for historical, informational and policy needs of the Alliance membership. A mission statement was developed: "The Aquatic Livestock Alliance exists for the purpose of promoting the interstate commerce of aquaculture livestock."

The Alliance founders hope to have another meeting open to area Aquaculture/other interested parties within the next six months (possibly as soon as 2 months) to continue the discussion of the Aquatic Health and Interstate commerce issues.

Editors note -(More than two years have gone by but a lot of writing has been developed to educate this industry where some of the issues are.)

The Aquatic Livestock Alliance website address is: www.aquaticlivestock.org

Epilog

Interstate commerce and International trade agreements preempt the various Agencies and State regulations and yet with so many participates in regulating, this is often ignored. The day is coming soon that the US Congress will have to address these issues and bring the Nation into compliance with the trade agreements or face trade embargos of significant monetary losses.

IMPORTANT WEB CONTACTS

- Michigan Aquaculture www.michiganaquaculture.com
- Great Lakes Fish Health www.greatlakesfishhealth.com
- Aquatic Livestock Alliance www.aquaticlivestock.org
- National Aquaculture Association
www.nationalaquaculture.org
- MI registered aquaculture facilities
http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1569_16979_21263-52067-_,00.html
- Michigan Department of Agriculture
www.michigan.gov/mda
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment
www.michigan.gov/dnr
- MSU Extension Service www.msue.msu.edu

MICHAQUA

Join the MAA e-mail discussion listing

If you're hooked up to the internet and not a part of the MAA discussion group your missing out on great discussions and important legislative update information. To register, go to the following site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michaqua/>

Aquaculture Interest Column

In every newsletter we would like to add at least one article written by a member of MAA. This could be something about your farm, experiences, concerns you may have, a study you might have done, or just about anything you feel would be worth passing on (aquaculture related please). If you have something you would like to contribute, send a copy to either Bob Baldwin or Dave LaBomascus.

Classified Ads

Advertising Info: Free to MAA Members up to 45 words. Non-Member Rates: \$10/ad. Newsletter dates are Jan 5, April 15, July 15 and October 15, please submit your ad no later than 5 days prior to these publishing dates. Contact Bob Baldwin at (231) 796-2284.

Join us in Mt. Pleasant February 25th

Membership Fees are due January 2010, take time to renew or become a member today!

Tentative Agenda *

2010 Annual Meeting Located at:

Comfort Inn & Suites Hotel and Conference Center - 2424 South Mission St., Mt Pleasant, MI

Registration	8:15 AM - 9:00 AM
Business Meeting	9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Break	10:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Strategic Plan	10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
Lunch Setup	
Lunch	12:00 NOON - 1:00 PM
MDA	1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Break	2:00 PM - 2:15 PM
DNR	2:15 PM - 3:00 PM
Extension	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
End of Meeting	4:15 PM or sooner

* Times of speaker may be modified

For Map and Directions:

<http://www.mtpcomfortinn.com/location.aspx>