

# North Carolina Aquaculture Association



*"Farming Fresh Alternatives"*

Aug 12, 2009

<http://www.ncaquacultureassociation.com>

Volume 2, Issue 2

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Special points of interest:

- Letter from the President
- Black Sea Bass Marketing Study
- BCC applies for Golden Leaf Grant
- Crawfish Growers Association Holds Promotional Boils.

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone has had a productive summer. I know we've been extremely busy around our farm with fingerlings and summer feedings. At least this year it seems we've had a little more rain than in years past. I would like to thank everyone that has been keeping up on the water issues that have been facing NC Agriculture over the last year. The work Farm Bureau has been doing has been making a positive impact. Once again, thanks to all of you who have contacted your state representatives on these issues. Thank you again for all of you that completed the NCDA&CS Ag Water Use Survey this past spring. The results of that survey showed that among water users withdrawing at least 10,000 gallons a day, farmers accounted for about 1 percent of the 15 billion gallons of water used daily in NC.

I am also happy to announce NCAA has joined the National Aquaculture Association. We were approached by NAA Executive Director Betsy Hart while in Seattle at the World Aquaculture Society Annual Meeting. After a unanimous vote of NCAA Board of Directors, we decided this would be a positive move for our association. Of course this membership did not come free. Matt, as directed by the board will be sending out a ballot for you to vote on increasing active membership dues to \$65 per year to help cover the cost of the NCAA membership in the National Aquaculture Association. Membership in this organization will help our opinions and voices be heard on national issues which affect aquaculturists in NC such as HR 669 Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act which was introduced to Congress earlier this year.

At our last board meeting we decided to put together an educational pamphlet highlighting NC aquaculture's sustainability and environmentally friendly nature. Please get any information for the species you raise to Matt by Oct. 31. This will give us enough time to have a brochure designed and printed for our annual meeting in January in Atlantic Beach.

In conclusion, I would like to remind everyone that officer and board member elections will be held at the annual meeting this year. Below are the offices that will be up for re-election and their current holders. If you would like to be considered for an office, please contact Matt Parker. He will also be sending out several email reminders.

President– Nancy Sugg; Vice President– Sterling Davenport; Sec.– Matt Parker; Treas. William Small; Board Members (4) George Sullivan, Randy Gray, Dale Pridgen, Gene Wiseman.

*Nancy Sugg*

## Black Sea Bass Marketing Study Completed—Chris Dumas

NC universities are developing methods for producing farm-raised Black Sea Bass (BSB) using advanced recirculating aquaculture system technology. A prior study found that NC upscale niche market restaurant demand for farm-raised BSB was good. The purpose of this study is to assess demand in four major metropolitan markets: New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta and San Francisco. BSB grown at UNC-Wilmington were

shipped by next-day air to a random sample of niche market restaurants in each city. Chefs prepared the BSB and completed a survey evaluating product attributes and reporting likely monthly purchases at various price points. Chefs find BSB comparable to other high-value fish: grouper, snapper, and striped bass. BSB was popular with the chefs: eighty percent of chefs would buy BSB, and those buying would purchase an

average of 16-39 lbs/month per restaurant at prices similar to those of comparable fish. This study reports estimates of annual purchases for each metro market and the impacts of market factors on purchases. Study results will help NC farmers develop business plans for commercial-scale BSB production facilities, attract investors, and apply for financing.

Read the full report at: [http://](http://www.uncw.edu/aquaculture/news-pubs.html)

[www.uncw.edu/aquaculture/news-pubs.html](http://www.uncw.edu/aquaculture/news-pubs.html)



Matt Parker (in a red dress) on the cover of Fish Farming News helping at the NAA Auction in Seattle.

**Don't forget to order your NCAA license plate. \$10 for members and \$15 for non members.**



**It's time to start thinking about what you can contribute to our next silent auction fundraiser. If you have something to contribute, please contact Matt Parker 252-633-1477**

## Brunswick Community College Applies For Golden Leaf Grant

The Brunswick Community College Aquaculture Technology Program has applied for a Golden Leaf Grant for online aquaculture classes. According to program director Dr. Doug Holland, "There is a constant need for upgrading of skills in this highly competitive technology-based industry.

Many people who need the specialized skills necessary for success on a fish farm lack the time and/or ability to relocate, required to pursue a formal 2-year degree. We intend to offer a non-credit, non-degree, 96-hour continuing education course via the NC Information Highway at 9 community colleges

throughout eastern NC, followed by on-farm visits by agents of the NCDA and NCSU-CES to fill this need. We will provide needed technical information directly to both existing and potential producers and workers where they live and work. This should greatly facili-

tate further expansion of the aquaculture industry in the region, resulting in new farms and expanded employment opportunities." Keep an eye out for this opportunity in your area if BCC is awarded the grant.

# Crawfish Growers Association Hold Promotional Boils

The NC Crawfish Growers Association held their annual promotional boils during June of this year at the Raleigh Farmers Market and the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market. People started lining up their coolers a full hour before sales started in Raleigh. It only took about an hour and a half to sell out of the almost 1200 lbs of crawfish association members brought to the boil. "We brought almost the perfect amount for the day,

and only had to send a couple of folks to the seafood market across the street to get some," according to Association President James Bass.

It took a little longer to sell close to 1000 lbs at the Piedmont Triad Farmer's Market just west of Greensboro. According to Association Vice President Sterling Davenport, "It's a different type of market in the Greensboro area. In Raleigh we sell twice as much live product as we

do cooked, so it goes faster. In Greensboro the sales are about even between live and cooked. It takes a little longer to sell them 1 lb at a time." Regardless of how long it takes, everyone agreed both sales were a success and did an excellent job promoting crawfish in NC. The NC Crawfish Growers Association holds its annual meeting in March of each year. If you'd like to be informed of the next meeting, contact Steve Gabel with the NC Cooperative Extension Service at 252-482-6585.



Customers line up in Raleigh for crawfish before the sale starts.—Photo from W. Small

## 2009 Membership Form

Categories	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Membership	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Support Industry	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Government/University	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate	\$ 25

## 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program-Update

By now you've heard of the 2008 Aquaculture Grant Program. NCDA&CS was awarded \$797,772 to disperse to aquaculturists in NC who experienced at least a 25% increase in feed in 2008 as compared to the previous 5 year average. To qualify, producers must also have had feed costs account for at least 25% of their operating costs. The application deadline for the program was Aug 29, 2009. NCDA&CS will be issuing feed vouchers to qualifying applicants. Vouchers may only be

used for future feed purchases and may not be used for any current or past debts with the feed mill. NCDA&CS hopes to have vouchers in producers hands by mid August, however this depends on many factors, including the timeliness of receiving completed paperwork from producers and feed mills. Producers will have until Sept. 2010 to redeem the feed vouchers. If you have questions about the status of your application, contact Matt Parker. 252-633-1477 or [matthew.parker@ncagr.gov](mailto:matthew.parker@ncagr.gov)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable and return to:  
North Carolina Aquaculture Association

c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 2066

<http://www.ncaquacultureassociation.com>

c/o NC Dept. Agriculture and  
Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 2066  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909



## Announcements

Announcements:  
If you have any personal announcements, you would like to send out please send them to Matt Parker for the next newsletter. These could include births, deaths, or special events at your farms.

2009 Virginia Aquaculture Conference,  
Williamsburg, Va.  
Nov. 13-14, 2009  
<http://www.vaaquacultureconference.com/>

2010 NC Aquaculture Development Conference  
Jan 22-23, 2010. Atlantic Beach NC  
<http://www.ncaquaculture.org>

2010 NC Aquaculture Association Annual Mtg.  
Jan 22, 2010– Atlantic Beach NC

**Elections will be held at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Contact Matt Parker if you are interested in becoming an officer or board member.**

***NCAA Annual***

***Meeting***

***Jan. 22***

***NC Aquaculture***

***Development Conf.***

***Atlantic Beach NC***