



From the President's Desk

Paul Cassidy

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of ACI and I can honestly say that I could have never dreamed that we would be where we are today. Our new office under construction, projects booked into 2009, an ever-expanding lake management client base, an extraordinary staff that seems to grow everyday . . . I can go on and on. I cannot thank you enough for the support that you have given ACI over the years, and for helping me achieve my goals and make my dreams come true.

As you have seen in this issue of FishTales, construction of our new office facilities has begun and needless to say, we are excited for the big move in mid-August. Currently, our construction managers and biologists are cramped into three offices totaling about 600 square feet. The new facility will give each member of our staff their own office with plenty of privacy and room to get their work accomplished. Although this is a great benefit to us, it will also benefit our clients by allowing us to be even more efficient and effective for you. In addition, we are building plenty of shop space to house our boats, 4-wheelers, trailers, and other sampling and construction equipment.

The Sandia Lakes renovation will be completed later this fall, with a grand opening scheduled for the week of balloon fiesta. The project is really turning out to be amazing and I encourage all of you to visit the lakes in the fall. We are also working on a project in Christopher Creek, Arizona that will provide a water amenity to the luxury cabin development. Other projects this summer and fall include river restorations and habitat improvements in Pecos and Taos; lake construction in Taos, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Jemez; and additional out-of-state projects in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and Wyoming. As you can see, 2008 is going to be another banner year for ACI!

As always, I sincerely appreciate all the support you have given ACI and we look forward to working with you in the years to come.



Aquatic Humor

A husband and wife came for counseling after 20 years of marriage. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the 20 years they had been married.

She went on and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured over the course of their marriage.

Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and, after asking the wife to stand, embraced and kissed her passionately as her husband watched with a raised eyebrow. The woman shut up and quietly sat down as though in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?"

The husband thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I fish."



FishTales

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Extreme Makeover: Sandia Lakes

One of the most popular recreation destinations in Albuquerque is getting a facelift after nearly 20 years of operation. Sandia Lakes Recreation Area will be brought up to date with a major renovation of the fishing lakes and facilities in 2008, with an anticipated opening during Balloon Fiesta in October. There were originally four lakes on the site, with a fifth lake being built in the 1990's. The lakes were in relatively poor health due to low water exchange, there was significant seepage in each of the lakes, and shorelines were steep and difficult to access for anglers. Using the general shape of the existing lakes, ACI combined the five lakes into two large lakes for public fishing, and created a beautiful new third lake on the north side of the property for corporate and tribal events. All of the lakes are interconnected to ensure adequate water exchange and improve lake health. The lakes were deepened and lined to provide cool water habitat for trout and prevent seepage. Shorelines were reshaped to create angler-accessible coves and points. Artificial habitat was added to attract and concentrate fish for improved angler success and satisfaction. A combination of rip-rap, aquatic vegetation, and vertical rock walls were designed into each lake to improve aesthetics and protect shorelines from erosion. A new bridge was placed on the middle lake to provide easy and safe access to angling opportunities from the newly created island.

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RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT



RAINBOW TROUT



BROWN TROUT



SNAKE RIVER CUTTHROAT



BROOK TROUT

Extreme Makeover... *Continued From Cover...*

In addition, the existing restroom facilities, pavilions, and picnic shelters were in disrepair and in need of updating. The new design incorporated a large pavilion with an indoor kitchen, eight restrooms, 51 fishing shelters, a large fish cleaning station, a new playground, and a state-of-the-art fish holding facility/maintenance building. The northern-most lake will have a concrete ADA walking path around a portion of the lake and will be fully landscaped. Although some of the existing cottonwood trees were removed due to poor health or hazardous locations, we will be planting a large number of new trees to provide shade and aesthetic appeal.

When complete, the lakes will be managed as a two-tiered fishery, with large rainbow trout being stocked during the cooler winter months and channel catfish stocked during the summer. Although large stockings will occur bi-weekly, the fish holding facility will allow for more frequent daily stockings. The Recreation Area will open in October, so after the balloons take off, get your fishing gear in hand for a memorable experience at Sandia Lakes!



Sandia Lakes is located off Highway 313 just north of Albuquerque.

Lake Management Brief...Grass Carp

Aquatic plants are a beneficial and necessary part of any lake. Without them most other lake organisms cannot survive. Plants keep the water oxygenated, provide food and cover for fish, and stabilize the shoreline and lake bottom. In a healthy lake, 10% to 15% of the bottom and surface should have aquatic plants. However, when aquatic plants exceed this level, problems can occur. When aquatic plants hurt, rather than help a pond, they technically become weeds, and some form of control becomes necessary. Aquatic herbicides are

A biological alternative to aquatic weed control is possible thanks to a weed-eating member of the minnow family.

commonly used to control aquatic weeds but they can be expensive and need frequent application.

A biological alternative to aquatic weed control is possible thanks to a weed-eating member of the minnow family. The white amur, commonly called grass carp, is a long, slender silver-colored fish. These fish are well designed for feeding almost exclusively on aquatic plants. They have a terminal mouth (not sucker-like, as does the common carp) and have large throat teeth that help it tear and shred plant material. These fish are long-lived and can eat 2-3 times their weight each day and may gain 5-10 pounds in a single year. You should, however, be aware that although grass carp will eat most common species of rooted aquatic plants found in New Mexico, they will not normally control filamentous algae (pond moss) growth. Grass carp are a regulated species and only sterile (non-reproducing) grass carp are allowed into New Mexico waters under state law.

If you are interested in stocking grass carp to help control aquatic vegetation in your lake, contact our Senior Biologist, Jason Wiebenga (505-890-5753; jasonwiebenga@aquaticconsultants.com)



ACI'S Moving Date Nears

After years of planning, construction has finally begun on ACI's new Albuquerque office! With an anticipated moving date in the middle of August, we can't hardly wait to move out of our cramped quarters here on Hawkins Street. The new facilities will give us just over 5,000 square feet of office space and nearly 7,000 square feet of vehicle storage space. Although our current location has served us well, the new office will give us the breathing room to work more efficiently

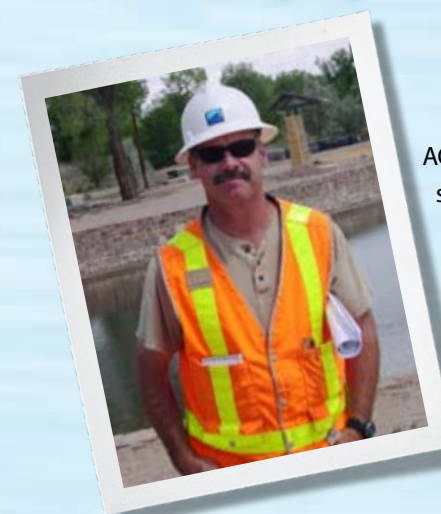
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and to safely store all of our specialty equipment. The office is being built on Albuquerque's west side, near the corner of Eagle Ranch and Irving. As construction winds down, we'll keep all of you informed of the progress and our plans for the Grand Opening celebration!

Water, Water, Everywhere...in Arizona?

When you think of abundant water, Arizona is typically the last place on your mind. But on the Mogollon Rim, there is water, and plenty of it! Aquatic Consultants began construction early this spring on two small lakes with an interconnecting stream on a development property near Christopher Creek. When the lower lake was excavated, a large spring and several seeps were found that flow nearly 330 gallons per minute continuously. Our construction crews were able to "capture" this water through a series of pipes and wet wells. Although most of the water will be returned to the adjacent stream, some of this clean, clear water will be recirculated through both lakes and the stream to provide a continuous flow of fresh water and improve lake health. Over twenty luxury cabins are proposed for the new development, and the water resources that ACI is creating, including trophy trout fishing, will make it one of the most unique properties in the northern Arizona.



JR Murphy – Construction Superintendent

ACI welcomes its new addition to the construction team, JR Murphy. JR has been a construction superintendent for over 10 years throughout New Mexico and New York. He has a proven track record of managing multiple construction projects and is extremely detail and results oriented, so he will fit in perfectly with the rest of the ACI staff! For ACI, JR will be managing the day to day operations of large construction projects as a Field Supervisor. JR is an avid fly fisherman, and also enjoys camping, hunting, golf, cooking, sailing, and travel. Please feel free to visit with JR when you see him on your project site this upcoming year.