



From the President's Desk

Paul Cassidy

The long winter is finally over, and although our field teams enjoyed the slower pace of winter, our administrative team was diligently working to increase our marketing efforts. Our challenge was not necessarily to find more business, it was to establish a broader name recognition. It seemed that more and more, folks just didn't know that there was a full-service company out there that could not only manage lakes and streams, but also design, engineer, and construct them as well. We increased our marketing efforts in three primary areas; 1) web site upgrade, 2) advertising in Farm and Ranch magazine, and 3) an updated brochure. By now, most of you have seen our new web site, but if you haven't please take the time to visit us at www.aquaticconsultants.com. The Farm and Ranch magazine is a high-quality real estate magazine that sells large ranches throughout the United States. We felt that this would be a great venue for us to get our name out, so we created a series of articles and advertisements that will run throughout 2007. Finally, we spent countless hours developing a new, 14 page brochure that highlights many of our past projects. We've received some great feedback from the improved brochure, if you haven't seen it, please call the office and request a copy.

This very successful advertising campaign has led to ACI having new construction projects scheduled into 2009. To continue to meet all of our current and future clients' needs, we have added several new positions and personnel to our staff. Three of these new employees, Troy Cook, David Chapdelaine, and Jonathan Tompkins are featured in this newsletter and are very welcomed additions to our team.

In 2007, ACI is looking forward to an exciting summer and fall construction and management schedule. Two of our primary construction projects slotted for the remainder of the year are centered around river habitat improvements in the Pecos and Chama Rivers. These construction projects will also add work for our biology division, as our fisheries professionals will manage the renovated rivers for trophy trout and first-class fishing opportunities.

Our continued growth has exceeded my expectations. We have grown from a local biology-based lake management company into the premier lake and stream construction and management company in the West. This growth is mainly due to our clients' referrals and your continued confidence in 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

There was a priest that loved to stream fish. One year there was a problem. Every time he had a chance to go fishing the weather was bad or it was on Sunday, when he had to work. All year he was unable to go. Finally it was the last week before the streams closed. The weather was bad all week until Sunday, when the weather was great. The priest could not resist, he called a fellow priest claiming to be very sick and asked if he could take over his sermon. The flyfishing priest drove over 200 miles, not wishing to see anyone he knew.

An angel seeing the priest playing hooky went to God and said "Your not going to let him get away with this are you?" God agreed he should do something.

The first cast the priest made was perfect. The fly floated past a log and a huge mouth gulped the fly down. For 45 minutes the priest ran up and down the stream fighting the mighty fish. At the end he held a 50" world record rainbow trout. Confused the angel asked God, "What are you doing?" God replied "Think about it, who's he going to tell?"



Fish Tales

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Aquatic Humor
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"The Best Trout Fishing in New Mexico..."

"The best trout fishing in New Mexico!" That was ranch owner Kevin Yearout's reply to ACI when asked what was his vision for his lakes. Ever since he was a kid, Kevin dreamed of owning his own ranch—complete with a lake where he could catch big fish. In 2006, Kevin's dream became a reality.

Kevin contacted ACI during the summer of 2006 to help evaluate water resources on a beautiful ranch property in northern New Mexico. Before long, Kevin and his wife, Lian, purchased the property and contracted ACI to enhance the water features. The overall goal of the construction and renovation was to create an environment suitable for growing and maintaining trophy trout populations.

The existing lakes, Custer and Moser, underwent major renovations including contouring of interior lake slopes to produce optimum fish feeding areas and angler wading areas. The shorelines were stabilized using vertical rock walls, rip-rap and emergent vegetation. Fish habitat was created in each lake to produce ideal cover and spawning habitat for the various trout and bait fish species. Aeration systems were placed in both lakes to improve the overall health of the lakes and its fish. Upon completion, brown and brook trout were stocked into Custer Lake, while rainbow trout and Snake River cutthroat trout were stocked into Moser Lake.

Two small Kids' Ponds, Harley's Lagoon and Coles Cove, were constructed on either side of the road leading to the main residence. These lined ponds were stocked with smaller rainbow trout and will provide excellent fishing opportunities for both children and beginning fly-fisherman. Each pond has its own aeration system and a recirculation system that feeds water to the ponds from Moser Lake.

The jewel of the project is a newly constructed trout stream that connects Custer Lake to Moser Lake. The stream was created to look and perform like a natural mountain stream. The stream edges were lined with natural rock,

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RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT



RAINBOW TROUT



BROWN TROUT



SNAKE RIVER CUTTHROAT



BROOK TROUT



Continued From Cover...

boulders, logs, emergent vegetation and wetland sod. Fish habitat was placed throughout the stream, as well as spawning substrate at the head of the stream. The stream was stocked with large rainbow trout upon completion.

Kevin and Lian agreed, "Professionalism with this team is an understatement, ACI was meticulous in every phase of the project's construction. When they finished construction in late

fall of 2006, we could not have been happier with the results. We can truly say that Aquatic Consultants' creativity, implementation, and professionalism exceeded our expectations in every way." 

The Stress of Being A Fish

As summer temperatures begin to soar, stress can lead to a number of problems with your fish. Why is stress bad for fish? Stress leads to decreased activity, poor feeding, poor growth, decreased catchability, greater susceptibility to disease and illness, and higher mortality rates. Some of the things that can cause stress include poor water quality, temperatures outside of the normal range for a species, and hauling and transport. But the biggest cause of stress in fish is associated with being caught and handled.



Here are a few helpful tips to ensure that you minimize stress on your fish this summer.

- Don't "play" the fish for long periods. Once the fish is hooked, reel the fish in at moderate, but consistent pace.
- Avoid handling fish with dry hands, as that removes the protective slime layer and promotes disease.
- Gills can dry out quickly, so return the fish to the water as soon as possible.
- Cut back on feeding programs when temperatures get hot or change your feeding patterns to a cooler time of day.
- Avoid exposing your fish to drastic temperature fluctuations and extreme light. 

River Restorations Are The Latest Trend



ACI has been building lakes and streams for over eight years now, but when jobs starting lining up for 2007 and 2008, they all had an uncharacteristic component – river restoration. Since its inception, ACI has had the opportunity to complete small river restorations from time to time, but this year we are taking it to a whole new level. With three restorations on the Pecos River, one on the Chama River, and one on Cow Creek, the ACI design, engineering, and construction staff will be very busy over the next 18 months. Each of the restorations is centered around creating exceptional fishing opportunities and restoring the rivers to more natural flows.

You may ask, how do you create fishing opportunities in rivers? The answer is habitat – it all centers around placing perfectly engineered habitat in all the right locations. We use large excavators, articulating trucks, and loaders to place large boulders, root wads, rock weirs, lunker boxes, and many other habitat structures in the river channel. The size and shape of the structures will help direct and regulate flow, and create holding areas for big trout. Top it off with some well-placed bear-proof automatic fish feeders and stock it with high quality rainbow, brook, brown, and cutthroat trout and we've just created some of the best river fishing in the West! 

Biological Control For Those Pesky Carp

Carp were introduced into the United States by unintentional release in 1879. They are the domesticated ancestors of the wild form found in the Caspian Sea region and East Asia. Since their introduction over 125 years ago, they have caused headaches for lake and pond owners by over populating every body of water they inhabit. They cause water clarity problems, they eat the eggs and young of sport fish, and they outcompete sport fish for food.



Until recently, the only effective method to reduce the population was by removing carp with nets. However, this method was very expensive and only marginally successful, as they quickly re-populated any areas that they were "removed". In the late 1980's, fisheries managers began to experiment with large predators to control carp populations. In just the last 10 years, managers have discovered that Tiger Muskie have proven to be the most effective at removing those pesky carp.

Tiger Muskie are a sterile hybrid of northern pike and muskellunge. They grow rapidly, attaining lengths of up to 30 inches in the first two years. Within four years, they may be as large as 12-14 pounds. They are an ambush predator, and time and again have shown a distinct preference for eating carp.

In spring of 2007, Aquatic Consultants stocked private lakes near Buena Vista, NM with 500 10-11" Tiger Muskie from Minnesota to control, and hopefully eliminate, the carp population. This is the first private stocking of Tiger Muskie in New Mexico. Over the next several years, ACI biologists will be monitoring both the carp and muskie populations to determine the effectiveness of this "new" biological control. 

Meet the Newest Members of the ACI Team

As ACI continues to grow, so does our staff! We've added three new staff members since last fall that are welcome additions to the team and will assist us in providing our services to you in an even more efficient and professional manner. Many of you will likely run into these folks in the field, but if not, please don't hesitate to stop by and introduce yourself.



Troy Cook – Director of Development and Design

Troy joined the ACI team in early May with the primary responsibility of marketing ACI for new development opportunities, and he will play an integral role in client relations. Troy has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Texas A&M University, so we will also utilize his expertise in all phases of our design work. Troy is originally from the Midwest and is currently relocating to Albuquerque. He and he and his wife, Ryan, are expecting their first child in November. Troy is an avid baseball fan, a fantastic golfer, and budding fisherman.

David Chapdelaine – Field Supervisor

David is ACI's newest construction field supervisor and he has over 20 years experience in project management, estimating, and contract administration. He received a B.S. degree from the University of Tampa in Business Administration. David worked for several years in the Southeast before making the move to New Mexico. With ACI, David supervises large construction and renovation projects, works with the Project Manager to schedule personnel, and is involved in bidding and proposal processes. David has been married to his wife, Chris, for 19 years and they keep themselves very busy with their three teenage children.



Jonathan Tompkins – Field Biologist

Jonathan joined the ACI biology team immediately after graduation in May. He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Jonathan also has Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. As a field biologist, Jonathan will be assisting in all phases of lake and fisheries management. When not working on your lakes, Jonathan is an avid fisherman, hunter, and golfer. 