

Cailteux award nomination for Larry Connor – FWC, retired

After receiving his Masters of Science degree at Virginia Tech, Larry started with FWC in 1979 in Panama City, where he worked primarily on grass carp. That project ended in mid 1980 and Larry moved to DeLeon Springs to work on the St. Johns River where he helped with Striped Bass stocking and stocking success evaluations, as well as sampling other fish populations and conducting creel surveys.

In the mid 1980's Larry began working on the newly created Fisheries Statistics project where he developed standardized data sheets, built databases and consulted with fisheries projects on sample designs and analyses. During this period, Larry modified a computer program used to analyze creel survey data, updating the analysis tool to reflect current methodology. He then gathered creel data collected by multiple projects as well as historical angler catch surveys, finally giving FWC the ability to analyze long term data across different freshwater systems. This program is still in use today and is being modified to allow central storage and sharing of creel data statewide. In addition, Larry also pulled the voluminous water chemistry data into a database, so the chemistry lab could retrieve and compare data.

In 2004 Larry moved to the Exotic Species Coordination section within FWC's Division of Habitat and Species conservation, where he was instrumental in collating information on a wide variety of species he had not previously worked with, while continuing to advise fishery projects. Recently he worked on several exotic species eradication projects including Gambian Pouched Rats and Prairie Dogs.

Larry has long been active in the Florida Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. He was the Chapter Secretary-Treasurer from 1995-1996, Chapter President from 1997-1998, Southern Division Secretary/Treasurer from 1999-2001 and Southern Division President from 2004-2005. He has been a wealth of information for the officers who have followed him.

Larry has always been willing to take on new challenges and to help whoever, whenever. He oversaw the entire (roughly \$300,000) budget for the 1995 AFS national meeting in Tampa. When the Florida Chapter hosted the Southern Division meeting in 2001, Larry was instrumental in choosing the host city, negotiating contracts and tending to the details of the meeting. He has managed the Rottmann scholarship fund from its beginnings in 1997 and has been the chair of the Florida Chapter Membership Committee since 1991. In this capacity he keeps membership lists up-to date and sends the Shellcracker newsletter to members.

In the 1990's, Larry designed the computer program that the Chapter still uses for meeting registrations. The program gives us a searchable membership database with current contact information and generates the reports we need for meetings including number of attendees, number and sizes of shirts to order, and number of meals and accommodations.

Whether working with FWC or helping with the Florida Chapter activities, Larry has always looked for a better way to do things, with the ability to see the big picture. In the past 25 years, no other member has been more actively involved with the Florida Chapter's activities. Even

though he has retired from his FWC position, Larry continues in all of his Chapter responsibilities and we truly appreciate it all.