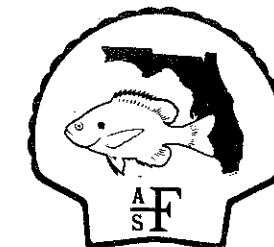


the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



FEBRUARY 1992

VOLUME 12 (1)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Where did the year go? It seemed like just yesterday that Christmas was two months away, now it's nearly two months past! Nonetheless, your Chapter's Committees have been very busy and productive. The Pollution, Grass Carp, Chapter Development, Endangered Species, Legislative, Membership, Raffle, and Aquaculture Committees have been especially active. These committees will be providing interesting and some potentially controversial reports at this year's annual business meeting, so make plans to attend. Also, check out this issue of the Shell-Cracker for more details, and if you would like more information please call me or the committee chairpersons.

Ron Taylor has put together an outstanding invited speaker symposium for the annual meeting. The symposium will focus on the future of Florida's game fishes. This is a critical topic to far more people than just sportfisherman and fisheries scientists. This symposium is sure to generate considerable discussion and it could be the beginning of more effective communications between professionals employed by businesses involved in sportfishing related activities, fisheries scientists employed by governmental agencies, and others.

On a personal note, I want to thank each of you for your support this year. Many of you contributed generously of your time; I especially thank your Executive Committee as they have all worked hard in your behalf. I know under Ron's leadership, the Chapter will continue to gain strength and direction. I am confident the more you give to the Chapter, the more the Chapter can benefit you and, ultimately, Florida's natural resources will be the winner! I encourage each of you to become active in the Chapter.

-- Paul L. Shafland

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

RAFFLE INFORMATION

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT INFORMATION

INSIDE!!!

Charles E. Cichra
FAFS Newsletter Editor
University of Florida
Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606

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12th Annual Meeting
 Florida Chapter, American Fisheries Society
 Withlacoochee State Forest Training Center
 Brooksville, Florida
 10-12 March 1992

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, 10 March 1992

1:00pm - 6:00pm Registration
 2:00pm - 5:00pm Leadership Orientation
 Paul Brouha, National AFS
 5:30pm - 6:30pm Dinner
 7:30pm - ?????? Social

Wednesday, 11 March 1992

7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast
 8:00am - 12:00pm Registration
 8:10am - 8:15am Convene
 8:15am - 8:20am Invocation - Jerry Krummrich, FL GFWFC
 8:20am - 8:30am Welcome - Bill Seaman, U of FL, Sea Grant
 8:30am - 10:00am Symposium

"The Future of Florida's Sportfisheries"

8:30am "The Economic Impact and Valuation of Saltwater
 Recreational Fisheries in Florida: an Update"
 Fredrick Bell, FSU, Tallahassee, FL

9:00am "The Role of Wallop/Breaux and the Sportfish
 Restoration Act" Bob Cooke, USFWS, Atlanta, GA

9:30am "Industry's Commitment to Sportfishing"
 Sam Griffin, Lurs Jensen, Moore Haven, FL

10:00am Break

10:15am "Forecast for Florida's Fishing Future"
 Ted Foresgren, FL FCA, Tallahassee, FL

10:45am "Management Options for a Maximum Future"
 Roy Williams, FL MFC, Tallahassee, FL

11:15am "A Fisherman's Perspective"
 Frank Sargent, Tampa Tribune, Tampa, FL

11:45am Questions and/or Discussion

IN PRINT (Continued):

The Ecology of Fishes on Coral Reefs, edited by Peter F. Sale,
 University of New Hampshire. 754pp. Academic Press, Harcourt
 Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1250 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA
 92101-9665, \$69.95. ISBN: 0-12-615180-6. Phone: 1-800-321-5068.

Florida Aquatic Plant Locator, Florida Department of Agriculture
 and Consumer Services, Aquaculture Program, 425 Mayo Building,
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800. \$3.50. 85pp.

Environmental Education Videotapes, Films and Slide Sets Relating
 to Water: a Resources for Teachers, Extension Agents, Libraries,
 Government Agencies and Environmental Organizations in Florida,
 compiled by Ronnie Hawkins. Center for Aquatic Plants, IFAS,
 University of Florida, 7922 N.W. 71st Street, Gainesville, FL
 32606. 30pp.

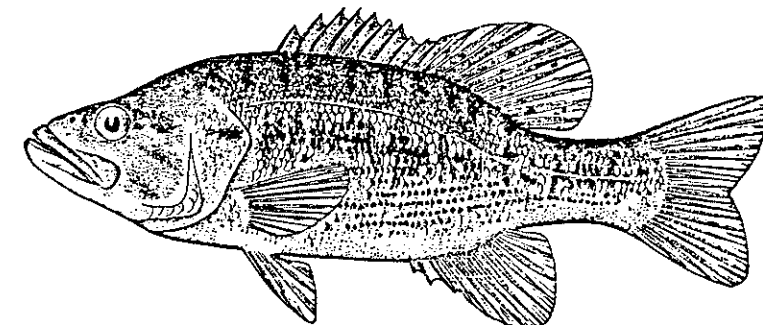
NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DEADLINE:

The next issue of this newsletter will be mailed in late April.
 If you have something that you would like to include in the next
 newsletter, please get it to me no later than 15 April 1992.

Send your information to me at:

Chuck Cichra
 FAFS Newsletter Editor
 University of Florida
 Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture
 7922 NW 71st Street
 Gainesville, Florida 32606

Phone: (904) 392-9617, SUNCOM 622-9617
 FAX: (904) 392-3462, SUNCOM 622-3462



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

14th Annual Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association (FTFFA) Fish Show, Farm Tour and Awards Banquet, 14-15 March 1992, Tampa Convention Center and Hyatt, Tampa. Contact: FTFFA, Inc., P.O. Box 1519, Winter Haven, FL 33882, (813) 293-5710 or FAX (813) 299-5154.

Florida Water Management Research Conference, 16-17 March 1992, Orlando. Contact: South Florida Water Management District, attn/Betty Hundley, P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416.

NALMS: 1st Annual Southeastern Lakes Management Conference: The Benefits of Lake and Reservoir Management, 19-21 March 1992, Kennesaw, GA. Contact: NALMS, One Progress Blvd., Box 27, Alachua, FL 32615-9536, (904) 462-2554 or FAX (904) 462-2568.

Coral Reef Coalition, First Annual Conference, 19-22 March 1992, Key West. Contact: The Center for Marine Conservation, 1725 DeSales Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

League of Environmental Educators in Florida Annual Conference, 10-12 April 1992, Ellenton. No on-site registration; you must pre-register by mail. Contact: Lucinda Romano, 3815 Clover Hill Court, Brandon, FL 33511.

First International Conference on Ground Water Ecology, 26-29 April 1992, Tampa. Contact: American Water Resources Association, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, #220, Bethesda, MD 20814-2192, (301) 493-8600 or FAX (301) 493-5844.

Thirty-second Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society and International Symposium on the Biology and Management of Aquatic Plants, 12-16 July 1992, Daytona Beach. Contact: Secretariat: Bill Rushing, Sec-Treas., APMS, Inc., P.O. Box 2695, Washington, D.C. 20013-2695.

IN PRINT:

Artificial Habitats for Marine and Freshwater Fisheries, edited by William Seaman, Jr. and Lucian M. Sprague, University of Florida. 285pp. Academic Press, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1250 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101-9665, \$39.95. ISBN: 0-12-634345-4. Phone: 1-800-321-5068.

Dynamic Aquaria: Building Living Ecosystems, Walter H. Adey and Karen Loveland, Smithsonian Institution. 643pp. Academic Press, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1250 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101-9665, \$39.95. ISBN: 0-12-043790-2. Phone: 1-800-321-5068.

Wednesday, 11 March 1992

12:15pm - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - 3:00pm Contributed Paper Session

(Each paper to be about 15 - 17 minutes in length, followed by a 3 to 5 minute question and answer period)

3:00pm - 3:15pm Break
3:15pm - 5:15pm Contributed Paper Session
5:30pm - 6:30pm Outdoor Bar-B-Que
7:00pm - 8:30pm Business Meeting - Paul Shafland, President
(Attendance by all members is encouraged)

Tuesday, 12 March 1992

7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast
8:00am - 10:00am Contributed Paper Session
10:00am - 10:15am Break
10:20am - 12:00pm Contributed Paper Session
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch
1:00pm - ???pm Awards and Closing Announcements

The following is a list of abstracts submitted as of 5 February 1992:

The Florida Marine Research Institute's baitfish ichthyoplankton program for 1991. M.F. McGowen and B. Mahmoudi. Florida Marine Research Institute.

Recent developments in the Florida commercial shark fishing industry. Steven T. Brown. Florida Marine Research Institute.

Status and future of Florida saltwater sportfishing: Sarasota Bay as a case study. R.E. Edwards and R.E. Hueter. Mote Marine Laboratory.

Influence of ambient salinity on osmoregulation in the Eustis Pupfish, Cyprinodon variegatus hubbsi. Frank Jordan, Dennis C. Haney and Frank G. Nordlie. Department of Zoology, University of Florida.

Differences in the sagitta, lapillus, and asteriscus in estimating age and growth of juvenile Red Drum (Sciaenops ocellatus). Andrew W. David, J. Jeffery Isely and Churchill B. Grimes. National Marine Fisheries Service.

Life history and ecology of the Blackmouth Shiner, Notropis melanostomus, from Northwest Florida. S.A. Bortone and T. Martin. Biology Department, University of West Florida.

Structure of the Broward County, Florida fishery harvest. James E. McKenna, Jr. Florida Marine Research Institute.

Abstracts Submitted - continued:

Is there a role for individual transferable quotas in sport fishery management? J. Walter Milon. Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida.

Seagrass and drift algae as complimentary habitats for fishes in Tampa Bay, Florida. David A. Rydene and Richard E. Matheson. Florida Marine Research Institute.

Voluntary release of largemouth bass by Florida anglers. Thomas R. Champeau and Paul W. Thomas. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Nutrients, aquatic macrophytes and fish populations in streams. Mark V. Hoyer and Daniel E. Canfield, Jr. Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Florida.

Hydroacoustic assessment of coastal pelagic resources - 1991 Tampa Bay pilot study. Daryl Pierce, Fredrick Sutter and Behzad Mahmoudi. Florida Marine Research Institute.

Short-term survival and growth of hatchery-reared Red Drum in the wild. Laurel Brant and Robert H. McMichael, Jr. Florida Marine Research Institute.

Recreational saltwater fishing license funds. Ed Joyce. Office of Fisheries Management.

Spatial variation in growth and mortality of King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel larvae about the Mississippi River Plume. Douglas A. DeVries and Churchill B. Grimes. National Marine Fisheries Service.

Spawning periodicity, site selection and variation in Indian River Lagoon populations of the Spotted Seatrout, Cynoscion nebulosus. R. Grant Gilmore, Steve V. Kooy, Douglas M. Scheidt and Ronald E. Brockmyer. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute.

Status of mercury analysis of marine fishes collected by the Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program. Michael M. Byerly, George Henderson and Robert McMichael.

Batch-fecundity in the gag, Mycteroperca microlopis. L. Alan Collins and Allyn G. Johnson. U.S. Department of Commerce.

The distribution of juvenile and forage fishes in the littoral zone of Lake Okeechobee. John Chick and Carole McIvor. Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Florida.

Habitat selection of three fish species responding to the effects of predation pressure, plant density and macrophyte type. John Chick and Carole McIvor. Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Florida.

Communications

The committee will promote and maintain communications with environmental groups and other professional societies that are politically active on environmental issues. The committee may obtain and exchange information with these groups and societies on various issues. This information may be used in the development of joint position statements between the Chapter and other groups or societies.

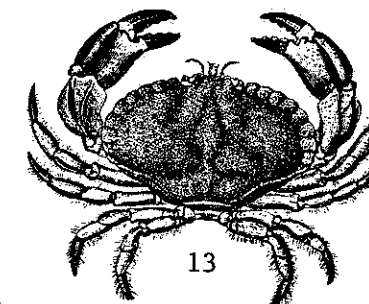
The Legislative Committee performs the function of keeping the Chapter aware of important legislation. Although the Chapter does not consider itself as an "activist" organization, the legislative position statement allows the Chapter an opportunity to comment on legislation affecting Florida's fisheries, aquatic habitat, and/or our profession. The Chapter's legislative position statement, when adequately researched, discussed and properly developed, reflects our Chapter's commitment in protecting, enhancing and maintaining a resource of value to all Floridians.

Membership: Larry Connor
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
P.O. Box 1903
Eustis, FL 32727-1903
(904) 357-6631 or FAX (904) 357-6635

I took over as membership committee chairman when Dave Clapp took a position with the Illinois Natural History Survey last summer. Since then, I have acted as a committee of one. Several members expressed interest in serving on the membership committee to either Dave or myself, and I apologize for not getting in touch during the past year. Anyone interested in serving on the membership committee for 1992 can contact me at the above address.

The Florida Chapter had 296 paid members for 1991. As of February 10, 1992, 97 of them had renewed their memberships, and 14 new members joined for 1992. Thirty-seven 1990 members didn't renew their membership for 1991, and I will try to locate them in the next few weeks and see if they are interested in rejoining in 1992.

One project that Dave Clapp started last year was an expanded membership directory. The chapter procedure manual says that a directory should be produced for distribution in June. Obviously we missed the deadline for 1991. I plan to have a current directory available for inspection at the chapter meeting in March. This will be updated and distributed to the members in June 1992.



**Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
1992 Annual Meeting Registration**

officers, and to develop position statements representing our Chapter's opinion on this legislation.

Responsibilities

Legislation

The committee is responsible for providing to the Chapter information on existing or proposed legislation that affects fisheries resources, the aquatic environment and our profession. This will be achieved by addressing Chapter members at the annual meeting and through our newsletter.

Position Statement

The committee is responsible for drafting position statements that represent the Chapter's opinions on existing or proposed legislation. A position statement is a thoroughly-researched and carefully-prepared letter that informs individuals, organizations, and/or the media of the Chapter's position. Except in cases where timely communication is necessary, legislation under consideration by the Chapter should be reviewed by the Chapter at the annual meeting. When timely communication is necessary, the Executive Committee will prepare a timely response. The final position statement will be approved by the Executive Committee and signed by the Chapter's president.

Activities

Membership

Committee membership is open to all members of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The committee will be comprised of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven people who are chosen by the president and appointed by the Executive Committee to represent the diverse interest of the Chapter.

Meetings

The committee will officially meet at a time convenient to all members during the Chapter's annual meeting. Additional meetings can be called when necessary at the discretion of the chair.

Issues and Voting

Legislative issues and activities for the committee to pursue will be proposed and discussed by the committee and Chapter members as well as Chapter officers, during the annual meeting. During the committee meeting, decisions will be determined by majority vote of members in attendance.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

AFFILIATION: _____

ARRIVAL DATE/TIME: _____

Please select one of the following Registration Fees:

Early Registration (Before February 1, 1992)

If you have already Paid your 1992 Fla. Chapter dues your Registration fee is: (\$25.00) _____

If you have not Paid your 1992 Fla. Chapter dues your registration fee is: (\$35.00) _____
(This includes complimentary 1992 Chapter dues)

Late registration (After February 1, 1992) (\$45.00) _____

Full Meals and Lodging (Please note that lodging is limited): (\$66.00) _____
(includes dinner and lodging on Tuesday night; breakfast, lunch, dinner and lodging on Wednesday; and breakfast and lunch on Thursday.)

Partial Meals and Lodging (Please note that lodging is limited):

Tuesday: March 10, 1992	Dinner:	(\$7.00)	_____
	Lodging:	(\$18.00)	_____
Wednesday: March 11, 1992	Breakfast:	(\$3.00)	_____
	Lunch:	(\$5.00)	_____
	Dinner:	(\$7.00)	_____
	Lodging:	(\$18.00)	_____
Thursday: March 12, 1992	Breakfast:	(\$3.00)	_____
	Lunch:	(\$5.00)	_____

Total Amount _____

Total Enclosed: (Minimum \$10.00 Deposit) _____

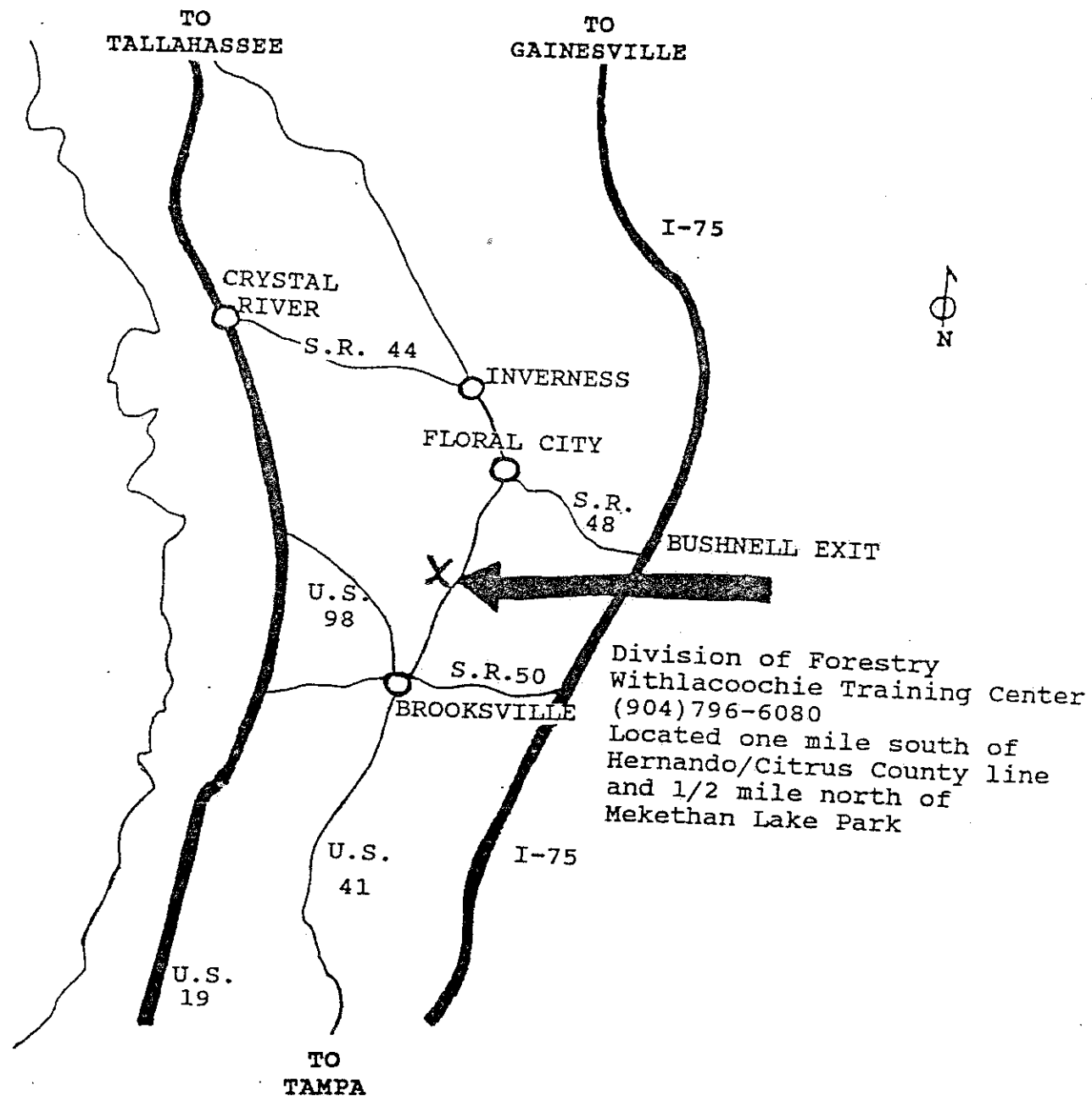
Balance Due: _____

Please make checks payable to: **FLORIDA CHAPTER, AFS**

Return to: Ron Brockmeyer
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Inc
5600 Old Dixie Highway
Fort Pierce, Florida 34946

Directions to the Florida Chapter, AFS

1992 Annual Meeting



Legislative: Curtis E. Watkins, Chair
Public Works
Stormwater Management Division
Tallahassee, FL
(904) 599-8037

The legislative Committee is one of several committees that have been formed within the Chapter during the past several years. Since its formation, the committee has been active in supporting legislation beneficial to Florida's fisheries, aquatic habitat, and our profession. This support has been achieved through the Chapter's legislative position statements which represent the Chapter's position on existing or proposed legislation.

A legislative position statement is a letter from the Chapter's president to selected state legislators, organizations, and/or the media, that urges support of existing or proposed legislation. Several position statements have been developed during the past few years. These include a position statement encouraging support of legislation to provide constant funding for the Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program, a statement urging that funds obtained from saltwater fishing licenses be used for research and management activities, and finally, a statement in support of Florida's Lakewatch program.

Each legislative position statement begins with the Legislative Committee reviewing existing legislation of interest to the Chapter or legislation proposed for the upcoming legislative session. During the Chapter's annual meeting, the committee discusses the legislation and provides their assessment to the entire Chapter. After the Chapter has the opportunity to discuss legislation that may become the subject of the position statement, and if there is interest in developing a position statement, the committee proceeds in the development of a draft legislative position statement. Once drafted, the Executive Committee revises the statement into a letter which is signed by the president and represents the Chapter's final legislative position statement.

The Legislative Committee's Guidelines identify the purpose, responsibilities and activities of the committee. The Guidelines direct committee, as well as Chapter members, in the development of position statements. The Guidelines are not "cast in stone" and may be modified whenever necessary, to best serve the Chapter. These guidelines are presented below to identify various aspects of the committee and its activities.

Legislative Committee Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of the legislative committee is to obtain information regarding existing or proposed legislation that affects Florida's fisheries, aquatic resources and our profession, to provide this information to Chapter members and

hand. Support your Chapter and have a great vacation at the same time. Call me for more information on this fabulous trip.

Save up those \$\$\$ for your raffle tickets. I'll see all of you in Brooksville.

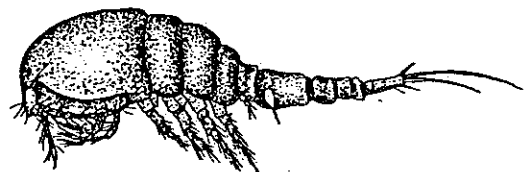
Grass Carp: Mark Hoyer
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
University of Florida
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville, FL 32606
(904) 392-9617 of FAX (904) 392-3462

Mark Hoyer has replaced David Clapp as chairman of the FAFS Grass Carp Committee, after David obtained a new job in Illinois. A meeting of this committee was held in December 1991 with John Cassani, Bruce Jagers, Bill Johnson, Drew Leslie, Rue Hestand, Lowell Trent, and Mark Hoyer in attendance.

The committee is now gathering the names and addresses of volunteers, who have worked with carp or on lakes in which carp have been stocked, that are willing to discuss their knowledge of grass carp with interested parties. We hope that this list can be circulated among different state agencies, as well as Lakewatch personnel, to increase the communication among professional and private citizens within Florida who are working with or planning to work with grass carp. This list will be sent to each regional office of the major state agencies to use as they see fit. Anyone who would be willing to add their name to this list and has not been contacted by a committee member should contact one. We hope to finish the list for distribution by the end of March 1992.

The National Introduced Fish Section Grass Carp Committee is currently working on a nation-wide guide to using grass carp in managing aquatic plants. Our Florida Grass Carp Committee discussed the possibility of submitting Florida papers as a single chapter that may later be reproduced as a working reference for Florida. This will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

The next meeting of the FAFS Grass Carp Committee should be an interesting one that will begin discussions of a grass carp position statement. We hope to finalize a statement that can be agreed upon by FAFS members and that can be sent to the regulating agency controlling the use of grass carp in the state of Florida. This is a large (some say impossible) task, but one that needs to be attempted, especially considering the wide-spread use of grass carp in the state of Florida.



.....
Guidelines For Giving a Truly Terrible Talk

Strict adherence to the following time-tested guidelines will ensure that both you and your work remain obscure, and will guarantee an audience of minimum size at your next talk. Continuity of effort may result in being awarded the coveted 5:00 PM Friday speaking time at the next national meeting.

Slides

1. Use lots of slides. A rule of thumb is one slide for each 10 seconds of time allotted for your talk. If you don't have enough, borrow some from the previous speaker or, better yet, cycle back and forth between slides.
2. Put as much information on each slide as possible. Graphs with a dozen or so crossing lines, tables with at least 100 entries, and maps with 20 or 30 units are especially effective, but equations, especially with at least 15 terms and 20 variables are almost as good. A high density of detailed and marginally relevant data usually preempts penetrating questions from the audience.
3. Use small print. Anyone who has not had the foresight to either sit in the front row or bring a set of binoculars is probably not smart enough to understand your talk anyway.
4. Use figures and tables directly from publications. They will help you accomplish items 2 and 3 above, and minimize the amount of preparation necessary for the talk. If you haven't published the work, use illustrations from an old publication. Only a few people in the audience will even notice anyway.

Presentation

1. Don't organize your talk in advance. It actually is best not to even think about it until you have been introduced by the session chairman. Above all, don't write the talk out, for it may fall into enemy hands.
2. Never, ever rehearse, even briefly. Talks are best when they arise spontaneously and in random order. Leave it as an exercise for the listener to organize your thoughts and make some sense out of what you say.
3. Discuss each slide in complete detail, especially those parts irrelevant to the main points of your talk. If you suspect that there is someone in the audience that is not asleep, return to a previous slide and discuss it again.
4. Face the projection screen, mumble, and speak as fast as possible, especially while covering your important points. As an alternate strategy you can speak very slowly, leave every other sentence uncompleted, and punctuate each thought with "ahhh", "uhhh", or something equally informative.
5. Wave the light pointer around the room, or at least move the beam rapidly around the screen in ever-tightening circles. If this is done properly it will make 50% of the people in the front three rows (and those with binoculars) sick.

6. Use up all of your allotted time and at least half, if not all, of the next speaker's. This avoids foolish and annoying questions and forces the chairman to ride herd on the following speakers. Remember, the rest of the speakers don't have anything important to say anyway. If they had, they would have been assigned times earlier than yours.

(Note: For many years I've had a faded, multi-generation xerox of this tongue-in-cheek list; I have no information on its source. Can anyone identify it? B. Murphy)

Phone # 409 845-5777 Texas A&M University
.....
Call for Applications:

J. Frances Allen Scholarship

The American Fisheries Society is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted until 1 March 1992 for the J. Frances Allen Scholarship for a female doctoral student whose research emphasis is in the area of fisheries science. This scholarship was established in 1986 honoring Dr. Allen, who pioneered women's involvement in AFS and in the field of fisheries, with the intent of encouraging women to become fisheries professionals.

The qualified applicant must be a female Ph.D. student who was an AFS member of record as of 31 December 1991. The applicant must be conducting aquatic research in line with the present-day objectives of the Society, which include "all branches of fisheries science and practice, including but not limited to aquatic biology, engineering, economics, fish culture, limnology, oceanography, and sociology."

A one-time award of \$2,500 (U.S.) can be used for any aspect of the doctoral education, including tuition, textbooks, equipment, travel and living expenses. This award is made directly to the student and not to the student's educational institution. It is not intended to replace funding previously obligated to the student from other sources. Specific application information will be published in an upcoming issue of *Fisheries*.

.....
Student Travel Grants

The Florida Chapter, AFS will again be providing the opportunity for students to obtain free registration, room and board at this year's annual FAFS meeting scheduled for 10-12 March 1992. To receive one of these travel grants, registered students must be presenting a paper at this year's meeting, apply for the grant (see the following page for application), and be selected by the FAFS awards committee. Grants will be awarded at the meeting.

Florida Chapter
American Fisheries Society

Student Travel Grant Application

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Current University/College attended _____

Currently enrolled as: Undergraduate, class _____

M.S./M.A., year _____ Ph.D., year _____

Which AFS groups do you belong to:

Describe your AFS activities within the past few years:

Describe any other professional and educational activities that you have been involved with within the past few years:

Why do you want to attend the Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter, AFS?

Student signature _____ Date _____

*** You must be giving a paper/presentation at the Annual FAFS Meeting to be eligible to receive this award.

Return Completed form to : Chuck Cichra
Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville, FL 32606
(904) 392-9617 or FAX (904) 392-3462

Deadline: 5 March 1992

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Raffle: Brent L. Winner
Florida Marine Research Institute
100 8th Ave. SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(813) 896-8626 or FAX (813) 823-0166

The new year is here and I'm sure that all of you have your abstracts written, talks organized, and slides shot and in the carousel, ready for this year's meetings in Brooksville. Well, maybe that's a bit optimistic, but at least I know that all of you at one time or another have wondered to yourselves, "What great prizes am I going to win in this year's raffle?" Here's a brief preview.

Imagine you wake up in the morning, throw open the shades to another sunny Florida day. You open your dresser drawer, sorting through your tons of fish clad T-shirts trying to find the one that is you. Then you take a quick glance around your bedroom, admiring numerous aquatic posters and works of art by such artists as Diane Peebles. You bolt to the garage where you quickly run through your checklist of fishing supplies, including rod and reel combos, flare kit, charts, legal-size ruler, fishing hat, tackle box, assorted lures, and worms, worms, worms. It sounds like you've got everything doesn't it, however, you forgot your hand-held marine radio. Now you are ready for the fishing trip of your life (over 6 donated so far!), the grand-daddy of them all being a three day excursion to the Dry Tortugas aboard the Winner Fishing Fleet. After catching a trophy dolphin, snook, or largemouth bass, you take it to the local taxidermist, C.E. Reed for mounting, truly a raffle hard to forget.

Doug Adams, Doug Haymans, Dennis Renfro, and I have been hard at work for the past month, and so far so good. In the next few weeks we are looking forward to even more responses from our much appreciated contributors. Although significant progress has been made so far, I still heartily encourage anyone to lend a hand in making this year's raffle a roaring success for our chapter. If you have any friends or other contacts around the state who might want to contribute to our cause, please contact me as soon as possible.

This year, the raffle committee is also conducting a "silent" auction of a GRAND PRIZE. You simply need to mail or FAX your bids to me prior to the meeting or give them to me in Brooksville before the raffle begins (include NAME, PHONE, AND ADDRESS). All bids will be halted immediately before the raffle begins, then the highest bidder will be announced. What is this GRAND PRIZE? You and five friends will sail aboard the SOLITON (52' luxury sailing yacht) to the Florida Keys for three full days. Snorkel, scuba dive, fish, bask in the sun, or sail till your heart is content. You set the course and the pace. This trip is valued at over \$2000.00. Bidding starts at only \$300.00, so BIG savings are at