

the shell-cracker

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



JUNE 1992

VOLUME 12 (2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Back in February, 1991, I thought our Chapter was on the rocks - we had to appoint an acting president, and elected a naive apostle as future president. We sorta lost continuity, or so I thought. In the long term, it seems the Chapter is in much better shape than before, actually in good shape, for having experienced this "missed cog in the wheel". Credit must be given where credit is due - Thanks, Paul, for taking the reins and for doing such an excellent job! Hope I will be able to do half as well.

A couple of notes on our annual meeting. We've had many positive comments lauding the caliber of presentations. I was proud of everyone who attended, especially in these lean times, and especially proud of the contributors. You might want to give **Kevin Peters** of FMLRI, St. Pete., and **Mike Schirripa** of NMFS, Miami, a call and compliment them for "Best Paper" awards. These were two examples of solid science. **Ron Brockmeyer** and **Doug Scheidt** are to be commended for their organization and tenacity. And who can out do **Brent Winner** and **Doug Haymans**? Super raffle, guys. And the unsung hero in this game is **Chuck Cichra**, editor of the "Shellcracker." We will all benefit from these folks agreeing to remain in their positions for another year. Thank you! I know you will all support the new President - elect, **Mike Murphy**, and we look forward to his direction of the program next year.

Personally, the meeting this year did two things for me and I hope some of the same stuff rubbed off on all of you. It is easy to become jaded and frustrated in our jobs, what with "Dickey Birds" and Multhusian politics to deal with. Well, after having had time to think about what was said, I realize we have a new challenge before us. We must re-commit, catch fire - so to speak - to do all we can to educate our new citizens so as to guard against habitat loss. But you say, "I'm not in E & I or PR." But most of us are not, so we must make a concentrated effort to become involved in some kind of educational program. "JUST DO IT!" Which brings me to #2, a personal commitment to FL AFS. I challenge each member to inventory their time budget and ask if there is not just a little slack that can be devoted to our Chapter. Specifically, we need someone for the grass carp and raffle committees. And with the '95 national meeting staring us in the face, we are going to need all the help we can get. So, become a point of light, get involved, do something. Prove to yourselves that the more you do, the more you want to do.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EUSTIS, FL
PERMIT NO. 4

I hope the next year brings prosperity, good health and success in your work. Stay in touch and keep a positive attitude. Bon chance!

-- Ron Taylor

Florida Chapter Member Receives National Award for Conservation:

San Francisco, May 5, 1992 -- Paul Shafland, of Boca Raton, Florida, is one of the 25 honorees selected to receive the 1992 Chevron Conservation Award.

The award recognizes his pioneering research in the introduction and management of non-native fish into inland waters. By introducing the butterfly peacock bass into the urban canals of Dade County, Paul not only reduced undesirable, non-native forage fish population, but also created a popular new sportfishery. He is director of the Non-Native Fish Research Lab of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Paul is one of 20 individuals who, along with five organizations, was honored by the Chevron Conservation Awards Program during a special ceremony on May 13, in Washington D.C. Each of the honorees received a \$1,000 award and a bronze plaque to acknowledge their efforts in protecting and enhancing the environment.

Now in its 38th year and the oldest privately sponsored recognition program of its kind, the Chevron Conservation Awards Program recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that serve as environmental role models.

"Throughout this country, there are people who, through education, action and, often, great personal sacrifice, make it a point to be part of the conservation solution," said Ed Zern, founder and director of the Chevron Conservation Awards Program. "Their work betters everyone's world and sets the stage for continuing improvement."

This year's Chevron honorees hail from 14 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Their work protects, restores and maintains wetlands, forest and nesting and spawning areas; improves wildlife habitats; facilitates recovery of endangered species; and passes the knowledge and wisdom of wise natural resource use to the next generation of conservationists. Each honoree also displays the enthusiasm, professionalism and cooperation that have helped to make balanced natural resource conservation an international initiative.

The program was created in 1954 by Zern, a nationally recognized sportsman, humorist and former outdoor writer for Field & Stream magazine. Under his direction, the program seeks out and honors the unsung heroes of conservation -- those individuals and groups that frequently work in anonymity without expectation of reward -- for their achievements and dedication to protecting and enhancing

Sportfishing

Roy E. Crabtree
FDNR, Florida Marine Research Institute
100 Eighth Avenue, S.E.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5095
(813) 896-8626 or FAX (813) 823-0166

Other than one or two conversations among committee members, we really have nothing to report. Perhaps, the purpose and role of this committee should be better defined?

Urban Fisheries

Dylan D. Jones
JAX URBAN POND PROJECT
10790-4 Key Haven Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 768-9924

In the December 1991 Shellcracker, Dylan Jones solicited interested parties to become part of this committee or to just get involved in promoting urban fisheries. Dr. Bill Falls responded promptly and urban fisheries documents were exchanged between the Florida Marine Research Institute and the Jacksonville Urban Pond Project. Several people have expressed interest in joining the committee and three have been formally contacted. As others join, it will be challenging and hopefully rewarding to determine their expertise.

Plans are to expand information exchange greatly in 1992 and to build a Florida Urban Fisheries (freshwater and saltwater) database.

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DEADLINE:

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

Send your information to me at:

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

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

The second major point I would like to raise is for the Chapter to officially adopt a membership policy. I could not find any guidelines in the procedural manual or in any material I received from Dave or yourself. Ex-officers told me that a decision had been made to make student memberships one-half of the regular rate. Does a membership run on the calendar year, or annual meeting to annual meeting? At what time in the year does a membership apply to the next year? I think the Chapter should use the same criteria as the parent society (see enclosure). After a decision is made, I will have new membership brochures printed.

The Chapter membership directory is complete. I will update it with in May and distribute it in June. I have enclosed a copy for display at the annual meeting. Due to the size of the directory, the Chapter will probably have to have it professionally printed or copied.

I have changed the database and added fields to identify officers, committee members, and Southern Division and parent society officers. These additions make the database at Eustis conform to the procedural manual.

The Membership Committee was a committee of one for most of the year. With the change in personnel and the associated confusion that created, I never formed a Membership Committee. I am willing to serve as Membership Committee chairman or on the Committee this year. Regardless of official capacity, I am willing to maintain the membership database and handle mailing the newsletters in the future.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

1. Memberships run on the calendar year. This will conform to the parent society's policy.
2. New memberships or renewals received January 1 through August 31 will be credited to the current year and will receive back issues of the newsletter. Memberships received September 1 or later will be credited to the next calendar year unless specifically requested otherwise. Members joining September 1 or later will receive all remaining issues of the newsletter for the year. This will conform with the parent society's policy except for late members receiving the remaining issues for the year.

Note: In practice, members will receive at least the first issue of the next year regardless of whether they renew or not. This is pure economics. Our bulk mail permit requires a minimum of 200 pieces. Anything less must go first class. For example, I mailed 370 copies of the most recent newsletter for \$36 at bulk rate. Mailing newsletters only to the 111 members paid for 1992 would have cost \$58 first class. The Chapter may want to "carry" old members until August 31 in case they renew or to allow us to contact them.

3. Student memberships will be one-half the regular rate. This conforms with the parent society's policy.

I have written this based on calendar year memberships. If the Chapter wants to have the memberships run from annual meeting to annual meeting, the cutoff dates may need to be adjusted.

renewable natural resources. An important factor in their success is the ability to work effectively with diverse organizations to achieve consensus and solve difficult environmental challenges.

Honorees are nominated in three categories -- Professional, Citizen Volunteer and Nonprofit Organization/Public Agency. Each nomination is accompanied by two letters of endorsement, a brief biographical sketch and collateral materials, which are judged by an independent panel of seven distinguished conservationists. The panel and program director Ed Zern select the honorees.

Additional information on the 1993 Chevron Conservation Awards nominating procedures can be obtained by writing to: Chevron Conservation Awards, P.O. Box 7753, San Francisco, CA 94120-7753.

KID'S FISHING CLINIC:

The Florida Chapter AFS donated \$100 to a Kids Fishing Clinic and Tournament held at a statewide YMCA family campout near Lake Mary, Florida. More than 3,000 people attended the weekend campout which was a tremendous opportunity to promote fishing to a large number of kids!

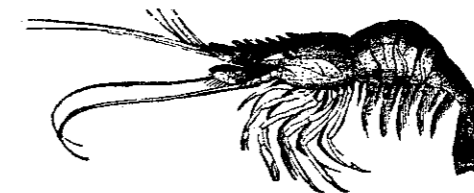
Wes Porak of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission organized the event. Florida Chapter members Lili Carpenter, Dennis Renfro and Bret Kolterman helped run it. Fourteen other volunteers helped throughout the day.

The fishing event went great! Four hundred children between the ages of 4 and 13 attended the fishing clinic which featured fishing techniques, conservation, knot tying and casting. It was nice that the fish cooperated as 58 bluegill and 40 largemouth bass were caught by 200 children in the fishing tournament.

Prizes were given to all the children in the contest and educational materials were passed out at the Kid's Fishing Clinic. "FIRST FISH AWARDS" were also presented to several children who had never caught a fish before.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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.



Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
1992 Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order 11 March, 1992 at 7:00 pm by the Chapter president, Paul Shafland. The meeting followed the agenda prepared by Paul. AFS National president Rich Gregory and chapter past president Wes Porak were recognized. Ron Brockmeyer determined that a quorum was present and read the minutes of the 1991 meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Parent Society President's Address: Rich Gregory made a few quick comments in which he stressed the need for multicultural diversity. He stated that the Chapter should strive to include women and persons of other cultural backgrounds in its membership. He also challenged the Chapter to become more active and "make a difference--for the resource." He encouraged the chapter to send representation to the mid year EXCOM meeting.

Chapter President's Comments: Paul identified the need for continued and increased participation of Parent Society members in Chapter activities. He mentioned that there were many National members who do not participate in the Florida Chapter. He stressed the opposite as well, encouraging Chapter members to participate in the Parent Society, including the divisional and sectional activities.

He commented on the diversity of the group, including freshwater and marine people with areas of interest ranging from urban fisheries to National parks from a wide variety of agencies and organizations. Stressing the goals of the Chapter, he stated that we must work to protect the resource and reduce the impacts of man. He noted the evolution of the Chapter from its beginning in 1980 to its position today as a preeminent organization in the field.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: Churchill Grimes handed out biographies of the candidates for Sec/Treas and President-elect (See attached). Ron Brockmeyer ran unopposed and was re-elected as Sec/Treas. Church reviewed the qualifications of the 2 candidates for President-elect, Mike Murphy and Doug DeVries. The election was held and Mike Murphy was declared the winner in a close vote.

Pollution: Pat Fricano outlined the problems with the existing water quality standards. He present a proposed letter to DER Secretary Browner and moved that it be sent as the Chapters position on the matter. A friendly amendment was accepted to redraft the letter and submit it to the Chapter EXCOM for approval (See attached) .

Professionalism: Karen Steidinger is preparing a questionnaire to distribute during the year.

Book: Doug Scheidt reported that 25 books were sold this year. He encouraged the creative promotion of the book and suggested that the book may need revision in the future.

Raffle: Brent Winner and associates were congratulated for there efforts.

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

1991 Chapter membership as of 2 March 1992 in the list maintained at Eustis.

Paid members for 1991	296
1990 members not renewing for 1991	37

Renewals and new memberships for 1992 received at Eustis or obtained from parent society.

1991 renewals for 1992	97
New 1992 members	<u>14</u>
Total	111

The 1992 totals do not include memberships received by Ron Brockmeyer as part of the annual meeting registration.

When I took over as Membership Committee chairman from Dave Clapp in September 1991, there were some problems with the list maintained at the Eustis. There were incorrect addresses and zipcodes in the database. A few errors are probably inevitable, but I believe that most of these have been corrected. The most significant problem was a lack of coordination between Dave and Ron Brockmeyer regarding members who paid at the annual meeting. Ron and I easily solved this by exchanging files. This could remain a problem because there are several ways that the Chapter can receive memberships. People can join through the parent society, with the registration for the annual meeting, or use the Chapter membership information brochures. Good database maintenance procedures require that all memberships eventually pass through one location to maintain a master list.

I think that the Chapter needs to make a decision as to where the official membership list will be kept. The Chapter procedural manual says that the Secretary-Treasurer is responsible for the membership list, and that he should coordinate with the Membership and Newsletter Committees to maintain the list. I am willing to coordinate with the Secretary-Treasurer and maintain the list at Eustis. Since the Secretary-Treasurer is an elected position and will change, I feel that keeping the official list at Eustis will reduce the problems encountered in the past. The current membership brochures have the Eustis address on them, and I have asked the parent society to send a quarterly listing of memberships they have collected here. The bulk mail permit is also at the Eustis Post Office.

possession, transportation, and sale of fish and shellfish. Many well intended laws, developed to meet public needs were written without considering aquaculture. There also appears to be an antagonistic reaction by some permitting agencies towards aquaculture, likely a result of their lack of understanding as to what aquaculture entails. The permitting process must be devoid of politics and preferential or discriminatory treatment. There is often great disparity in the interpretation of rules and regulations by local staff both within and between regional offices within an agency. Conflicting rules was cited as a major barrier to entry in all forms of aquaculture. In clam and oyster farming, difficulty in obtaining lease permits is also a major barrier. It is the opinion of this committee that the permitting process needs to be simplified to allow Florida aquaculture to develop. A single aquaculture permit for all state agencies, or a single fish farming permit per agency would greatly facilitate the process. It is felt that these changes could be made without adversely affecting Florida's water resources, native species, or quality of life.

2) There is also a need for cooperation within Florida's aquaculture industry. Unfortunately, fish farmers often consider the next farm down the road as their competitor, rather than someone in the same situation as themselves. Foreign competition is a far greater threat both to food fish and ornamental fish producers and will be an increasing constraint to Florida aquaculture. In addition, the diversity of Florida's aquaculture (e.g., alligators, aquatic plants, catfish, clams, ornamental fish, oysters, sport fish fingerlings, tilapia etc.) hampers effective organization. However, Florida fish farmers must be better organized to compete. An self imposed surcharge, similar to that used by the Florida citrus industry, appears to be the best option to provide appropriate support for research, marketing, and advertising. Possible methods of obtaining funds include a surcharge: 1) per quantity of fish sold; 2) per bag of fish food purchased; or 3) per shipping box or box of plastic bags purchased. If research, marketing, and advertising are not cooperatively promoted, markets will be lost to outside competition.

This committee will continue the exchange of information and identify constraints in an effort to stimulate Florida aquaculture. We request the support of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society to help foster and encourage aquaculture in the state. Any interested personnel are encouraged to join this committee.

Host: The committee reported that the 1995 Parent Society meeting will be held in Tampa.

Committee reports submitted for Urban Fisheries, Newsletter, Awards, Membership, Chapter Development, Legislative, Anadromous Fishes, Sportfishing, and Grass Carp are attached.

Treasure's Report: Ron Brockmeyer read the report which was accepted as read (See attached).

Special Awards: Paul reported that the Chapter had received the Outstanding Chapter award from the Southern Division for the second year in a row. Special certificates were awarded to Chuck Cichra for his work on the Newsletter, and to Wes Porak for his work on the Host committee, kid's fishing clinics and helping with last years annual meeting.

Installation of Officers: Paul handed control of the meeting over to Ron Taylor, the new President. Ron Brockmeyer and Mike Murphy were installed as Sec/Treas. and President-elect, respectively.

President's Challenge to the Membership: Ron challenged all members to make a personal commitment to the Chapter and get involved. Work hard to get new people to the meeting.

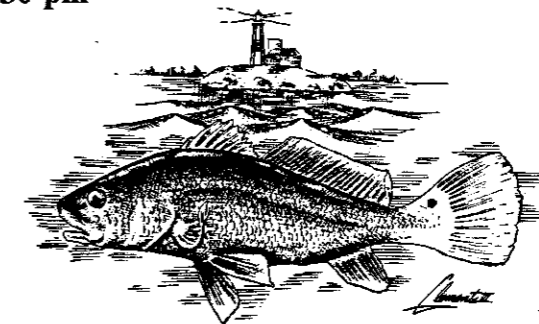
Award to the Immediate Past President: Ron thanked Paul for his work and leadership in the difficult transition period when all the Chapter officers were replaced. Paul was presented with a plaque recognizing his service as President of the Florida Chapter.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chuck Cichra discussed problems concerning student participation in the Chapter. Student Travel Grants and a Student Registration discount for Chapter meetings were discussed. It was moved and seconded that the Chapter remove the requirement that a paper be presented at the meeting for a student to receive a travel grant. The motion was withdrawn and the issues were referred to the Student Concerns, Awards, and EXCOM for resolution.

Grant Gilmore requested a change in the configuration of the technical committees. He cited extensive overlaps in several of the committees which might inhibit efficient functioning. He agreed to send a letter outlining his concerns to Ron Taylor for review by the EXCOM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm



**FLORIDA CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT**

\$5,394.89 Balance as of 2/28/91

INCOME

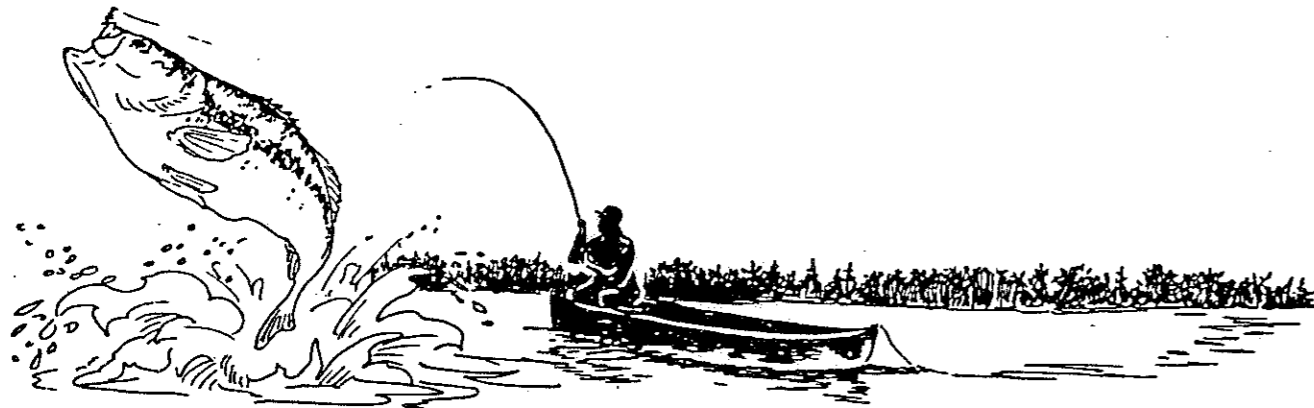
489.45	Interest - Fees
2,390.00	Dues
375.00	Book
7,570.23	NAV 90's (300 Books)
7,223.00	Misc. Deposit - Raffle, Meeting, Dues, Books

\$18,047.68

DISBURSEMENTS

619.94	Printing and Postage (Shellcracker & Stationery)
650.00	AFS Building Fund (So. Div., Student Affairs Committee)
1,584.70	Travel (So. Div. & National Excom - 1995 AFS Host Committee)
4,055.20	1991 Meeting Expenses
1,663.30	1992 Meeting Expenses (Raffle, Shirts & Refreshments)
245.00	Misc. Disbursements

\$14,624.43 Balance as of 3/11/92



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Aquaculture Technical
Committee:

Roger W. Rottmann
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
University of Florida
7922 NW 71st Street
Gainesville, FL 32606
(904) 392-9613 or FAX (904) 392-3462

The Aquaculture Technical Committee, Florida Chapter of the American Fishery Society, was formed to foster improved communication between aquaculture professionals within the state and to identify areas that require additional input to assist Florida aquaculture. At the first meeting of this committee, Frank Chapman, Bill Falls, Andy Luzur, Harold Revels, Chuck Starling, and Craig Watson were in attendance. It was evident that aquaculture research and extension in Florida currently encompasses a wide variety of species and technologies. Progress is being made in the production of both freshwater and marine food fish, sport fish, ornamental fish, bait fish, and shellfish and the transfer of this technology to the farmers. The production of native freshwater and marine species appears to be promising, in particular, ornamental marine species.

However, it was the opinion of the Aquaculture Technical Committee that the major constraints of Florida aquaculture are not technical or scientific, but rather regulatory or economic in nature. It is felt that the information, ideas, and constraints outlined in the "Florida Aquaculture Plan", presented by Doyle Conner, Commissioner of Agriculture, 1990, continue to be relevant and is presently the best guide for development of Florida's aquaculture industry. The following items were felt to be of particular concern to the future development of aquaculture in Florida.

1) Permitting is a major barrier to research institutions, as well as, private fish farms in Florida. The process of obtaining the necessary approval is both complex and expensive. Upgrading existing facilities, as well as, the construction of new ponds and hatcheries is hampered by the necessity to comply with a multitude of local, state and federal regulations. Agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Environmental Regulation (DER), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Florida Water Management Districts, etc. control various aspects of aquaculture other than the