



THE LATERAL LINE

Oklahoma Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society

December 2021

Volume 40(1)

OK AFS Officers:

President

Ryan Ryswyk

ODWC Southwest Regional
Supervisor

ryan.ryswyk@odwc.ok.gov

Past-President

Josh Johnston

ODWC Northeast Region
Supervisor

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Jason Schooley

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Paddlefish Research Center

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Secretary-Treasurer

Jon West

ODWC East-central Region
Fisheries Biologist

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings OKAFS members. It feels like just yesterday I saw all of you at our meeting in September. But here we are, already four and a half months down the road and it's time to start planning the next meeting.

I'd like to start with a big thank you to our past president, Josh Johnston and the executive committee for planning the September 2021 meeting. Pulling off an in-person meeting when most organizations wouldn't even consider meeting face to face is quite remarkable. This new covid world we are all trying to navigate has been a number of things; first and foremost, it's been tragic. It's also been extremely polarizing. Unfortunately, it has caused friends, coworkers, and even family members who otherwise work well together to become enemies. Members within OKAFS undoubtedly have differing opinions about the current state of our world. But just one of the many great things about this group is that we were able to put differences aside, work together, adapt, and overcome the obstacles of this covid world to gather together of a productive meeting (and a Fun meeting!-equally important in my opinion) I'm thankful for everyone who planned, attended, and contributed to the meeting. It was refreshing to see everyone face to face, connect, and network with fish folks I hadn't seen in person in a very long time.

I'm excited about the future of fisheries in Oklahoma and the future of our organization. We have a great bunch of members who have proven they can and will overcome obstacles to continue to make a difference. I'm also excited to see you all again sometime in 2022. I will be reaching out with a follow up survey about our 2021 meeting and also asking for input for our next meeting.

-Ryan



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**OK AFS Committee
Chairs**

Awards Committee

Eric Brennan

ODWC Northeast Region
Fisheries Technician

eric.brennan@odwc.ok.gov

Student Concerns

Trevor Starks

ODWC Fisheries Biologist

trevor.starks@odwc.ok.gov

Continuing Education

Dr. Dan Shoup

OSU Associate Professor of
Fisheries Ecology

daniel.shoup@okstate.edu

***Environmental
Concerns***

Curtis Tackett

ODWC Aquatic Nuisance
Species Fisheries Biologist

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Activities

Clayton Porter

ODWC Southwest Region
Fisheries Biologist

clayton.porter@odwc.ok.gov

Communications

Dr. Jim Long

OK Coop Fish and Wildlife
Research Unit Leader

longjm@okstate.edu

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Cash		Square		Combined Total
Chapter Dues	\$ 205.00	Registration	\$ 48.60	\$ 253.60
Auction	\$ 615.00	Auction	\$ 786.77	\$ 1,412.77
Golf	\$ 280.00	Golf	\$ 194.10	\$ 474.10
TOTAL	\$ 1,100.00	TOTAL	\$ 1,029.47	
GRAND TOTAL				\$ 2,129.47

total registration \$ 4,299.00

Total income \$ 6,428.47

Total Receipts \$6,834.25

Meeting income 405.78

-Jon West



NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS

Fisheries Worker of the Year

Richard Snow, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Jimmie Pigg Travel Scholarships

Briant Nguyen, University of Central Oklahoma

Doug Zentner, Oklahoma State University

Dr. James K. Schooley Best Presentation Award

Doug Zentner, Oklahoma State University

Past-President Award

Josh Johnston, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Continuing Education Committee hosted Jim Reynolds, author of the electrofishing chapter of the Fisheries Techniques book and frequent electrofishing workshop teacher, to do a 3-day electrofishing workshop at OSU and Lake Carl Blackwell. Students were allowed to attend for free and professionals were asked to pay enough to allow the chapter to break even on paying Jim for the workshop. There has been talk of possibly getting everyone together to review this and conduct some of the field trials again in the spring electrofishing season, when catch rates will be higher and more representative than during the heat of summer. Please let me or one of the other committee members (Ashley Nealis, Jason Schooley, and Cliff Sager) know if that sounds worthwhile to you and we can explore options for putting something together.

Additional questions regarding continuing education please contact:

-Dr. Dan Shoup
405-744-9671

dshoup@okstate.edu



ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The activities committee has made some progress in the past few years; we hosted a cornhole tournament at the last OKNRC meeting and purchased boards, at our last meeting in Ft. Gibson our president Josh Johnston organized a golf tournament for our student scholarship program, and we were able to host refreshments and supplies for all members at the 2021 OKAFS meeting. I encourage all members to let me know if there is an event or activity you would like to see/have at upcoming meetings or throughout the year that OKAFS activities could help with. If there is anyone who is interested in helping me with preparation of breakfast and food prep for breaks at upcoming meetings please let me know and I would greatly appreciate the help. Please feel free to reach out if there are any improvements or special request for such things as dietary needs or physical restraints when hosting meetings and we will accommodate.

Along with duties assigned, this committee deals with membership and dues. If you have any questions dealing with membership or dues please let me know. Please remember to pay your yearly dues of five dollars when you show up to the yearly meetings, this helps with refreshments and allows us to update our yearly member count to the AFS parent society.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meetings and truly enjoy what our members do for fisheries science.

-Clayton Porter

clayton.porter@odwc.ok.gov

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee was fairly idle over the past year because of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, we did work to keep the website and the Southern Division updated regarding the 2019 annual meeting that the chapter organized. We are also assisting with getting a newsletter out again after a brief hiatus.

-Jim Long

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OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AFS
was chartered on September 8, 1968.

The mission of the chapter is:

- To promote conservation, development, and wise use of the aquatic and fishery resources of Oklahoma.
- To promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all aspects of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma.
- To gather and disseminate scientific, technical and other information about fisheries science and management to Chapter members and the general public through publications, meetings and other forms of communications.
- To encourage competent teaching of fisheries science and management in Oklahoma colleges and universities and promote the continuing education of Oklahoma fisheries workers.

OKLAHOMA AFS MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ (Last) _____ (First)

AFFILIATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____ (Dept., Bldg., Office, Street, PO Box, etc.) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip)

DAY PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: 1 Year (\$5) _____ 2 Years (\$10) _____ 3 Years (\$15) _____ Life (\$50) _____

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Professional _____ Student _____

COMMITTEES (please choose at least one): Activities _____ Awards _____ Continuing Ed. _____ Environmental Concerns _____ Fundraising _____ Program _____

Detach, make check payable to OKAFS, and send to: Jon West, OKAFS Secretary/Treasurer, ODWC Porter Office, 9097 N. 34th St. W., Porter, OK 74454-2743. Phone: 918-351-5143.

Email: jonathan.west@odwc.ok.gov





ODWC Internship Opportunities

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has established an Internship Program to help students that are majoring in wildlife related fields to gain work experience. The Department has a limited number of internship positions available. Positions are seasonal and vary by location and duration.

Internships are primarily in the spring and summer, with occasional fall positions. Locations are state-wide. Work schedules will be determined by the supervisor. Positions will be limited to 2 terms not to exceed 975 hours per term. (a term is a 12month period starting with the hire date). A 3rd term may be worked only if the Intern is continuing their education. Verification must be submitted, if rehired for a 3rd term. Lodging is not provided.

Intern applicants must be actively pursuing a degree, or have obtained a degree, in the following college majors:

- Wildlife Conservation Science
- Wildlife Ecology Education
- Biology
- Zoology
- Other related wildlife degrees

Graduate degree candidates, seniors, juniors, and sophomores with majors in wildlife conservation and those with previous related work experience in fisheries or wildlife will receive preference. To find the application or more information about other job requirements go to the ODWC's website at <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/odwc-careers>. Also, the ODWC has created a promotional video about the Internship Program that can be found on their website.



***OKAFS Student
Subunit Officers:***

President

Abigail Johns

Abigail.elizabeth.johns@okstate.edu

Vice President

Eva Sneed

evsneed@ostateemail.okstate.edu

Secretary

Nolan Miller

nolan.miller@okstate.edu

Treasurer

Jackie McClure

Jackie.mcclure@okstate.edu

STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

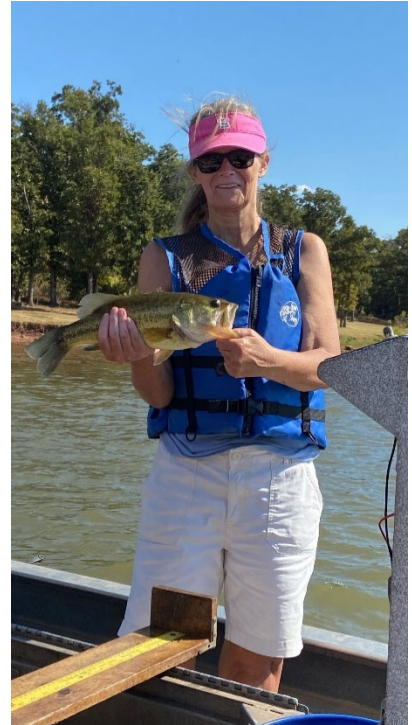
The Oklahoma State University of American Fisheries Society Student Subunit over the semester has gotten back together. Our goal this semester was to help our members gain experience in the fisheries profession and build relationships within the society itself

In order to help gain fisheries experience, we assisted Oklahoma States Applied Ecology Class by demonstrating the proper technique for using backpack electrofishing. We also assisted in volunteering with H.B. Parsons Fish Hatchery's annual Catfish Harvest.

We are excited for the Spring semester and are planning to host a fisheries techniques seminar at Oklahoma State University. We hope to help other students build relationships throughout the American Fisheries Society and have more experience-based opportunities.

-Abigail

Student Subunit Officers



Pictured (Left to right):

President: Abigail Johns

Vice President: Eva Sneed

Treasurer: Jackie McClure

Secretary: Nolan Miller

Advisor: Dr. Dan Shoup

Advisor: Dr. Jim Long