

Editor - Kim Erickson

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

LATERAL LINE



NEWSLETTER VOL. 9 (2) NOVEMBER 1987

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was very encouraged about the increase in attendance and participation at this year's annual topics and business meetings. At the same time, I'm trying to figure out how to involve more fishery workers in the activities of the Oklahoma AFS. Our membership has traditionally been sustained by researchers, biologists and students who are interested in hearing about new findings and methods of improving our fishery resources. This is what we might term my "last call" for ideas on how to expand the membership. I was impressed with the program put together by Jim Andreasen, particularly the information presented by the Missouri folks on objective habitat evaluation techniques. Student paper contributions were, as always, valuable to the audience, and the speakers derived great benefits from subjecting their research to fisheries "veterans." Our social hour and activities on Thursday night were well attended by a wide cross-section of fishery workers.

I believe that two of the essential functions of any AFS Chapter are to hold informative meetings, and to increase public awareness of the importance of our work. One great way of getting our message across is by co-sponsoring "Kids Fishing Days." Through these activities, we also perform a public service and insure that our profession will be supported by future generations. Jeff Boxrucker agreed to form an overall sponsorship plan and make up a brochure for these activities.

Our treasury is now capable of supporting events that might attract new members, increase public awareness, and make Oklahoma AFS more vital. I suggest that we become more active in field-oriented events. The Glover River field trip is one good idea, and I invite your suggestions for others. Additionally, I'd like to see the social/activities portion of our annual meeting expanded if we agree to hold the meeting in a non-centralized location.

At the business meeting, the majority of members indicated a desire to continue to meet jointly with TWS, and hold a full-day of papers. To do this, however, I believe that field employees should be more willing to contribute presentations on their activities. This would make the event more of a "two-way street" of information flow from pure to applied fishery science. Panel discussion and/or question and answer topic sessions would be a good way to break up the format. Budget constraints in nearby states are prohibitive to joint Chapter meetings, but we can afford to continue to bring in well-known guest speakers to address our topic(s).

Elsewhere, in the newsletter is a ballot for president elect/program chairman (Keith Thomas was unchallenged as secretary/treasurer for the next two years). After voting,

* OAS - Northwestern State U. - Nov. 13 *

please indicate your preferences on questions about the annual meeting arrangements, and offer some constructive comments. The results will be forwarded to the elected program chairman.

In closing, I'd like to thank the following people for their time and efforts: Jim Andreasen, program; Kim Erickson, newsletter and arrangements; John Stahl, finances; Gene Gilliland, raffle; Barry Bolton, refreshments; and Keith Thomas, activities. I'd also like to remember Bob Dorr, a fellow AFS member who died of cancer in August. Bob probably provided fish to every Oklahoma body of water you can name, at one time or another. He had the unenviable task of managing the State's largest hatchery at Durant. I sensed Bob's absence particularly at the social/activities portion of our meeting - he did know how to have a good time.

Larry Cofer, President

CHAPTER NEWS:

Minutes - Special Business Meeting - 20 August 1987
AFS/TWS Annual Meeting - Central Plaza Hotel, Oklahoma City

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Cofer.

Minutes of the 1986 business meeting were approved as they were written in the newsletter (msc: Summers, Pigg).

President Cofer asked if there was any old business. There was no old business.

Cofer then asked program chairman Jim Andreasen about the program. Andreasen stated that everything has been finalized and that he thought the membership would be pleased with the topics.

Cofer then asked Charlie Scott of the Scenic Rivers Committee to visit with the membership on the activities of that committee. Scott stated that the Glover trip had not taken place because of lack of interest and low water levels. A trip may be scheduled for this fall. On the Illinois River topic there was a meeting on the project going on in Fayetteville, Arkansas at this time. Charlie Scott and President Larry Cofer called on everyone involved to band together to save these streams.

Cofer then asked Gene Gilliland to speak on the activities of the membership committee. Gilliland stated that the push was still on to get non-member fisheries workers to join. Gilliland also stated that the Parent Society was still pushing to get local chapter members to also sign back up with the Parent Society. Cofer then asked Barry Bolton about his work with O.U. personnel. Bolton stated that he had placed membership packets

into all graduate students mail boxes and then Bolton asked Secretary-Treasurer, John Stahl if there had been any response. Stahl replied that there had not. Cofer stated that he was still trying to get ODWC hatchery assistants and technicians to become members.

President Cofer then asked Jim Andreasen about the Water Quality Committee. Andreasen stated that there was not all that much to do. David Martinez stated that there was many small things to do. Cofer stated that we needed a new head of this committee and Jim Andreasen suggested Bill Cox. Bill Cox accepted the position.

Cofer asked John Stahl, Secretary-Treasurer to read the Treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the treasurer's report (msc: Pigg, Martinez).

Cofer requested that Jan Dean visit the members concerning the recent kids fishing day for the out-patients of Children Memorial Hospital. Dean stated that he was thankful to Ron Suttles, Jim Walker, Bob Martin, Harold Namminga for their help. Dean also expressed thanks to the Casady School System for allowing the use of their pond and grounds, the Sooner Pioneers Club for donating \$200.00 for caps, visors and buttons; Mr. David Schultz and McDonalds for the children's meals; John Linville of Linville's Fishing Supplies for donating crappie jigs; Mr. Ed Troup of WAZP Brand Euro Larvae for donating bait. Dean stated that he was disappointed in the amount of publicity the Society got. Twelve kids attended. Ian Campbell visited with the membership on Coweta fishing day. The event was conducted by the Oklahoma Chapter of the AFS, and Eagle Scout Troop and one civic group. Prizes were given out. AFS buttons were used as prizes. Ian Campbell stated that they did have TV coverage. Discussion followed concerning the use of visors, caps and buttons as prizes. Jimmie Pigg commented that if he was contacted in time he could provided wildlife posters as prizes.

Cofer opened new business by talking about public service activities. Cofer suggested that the Society step up the kids fishing days event across the state. Jeff Boxrucker was nominated to head a committee to organize these events.

The second topic of new business from the President was the possible changes concerning the meeting place and format for next year. The discussion that followed included whether to continue meeting with the Wildlife Society or not, the change of location to a different area, new sources of papers and the possibility of meeting with another States' Chapter. There were not any concrete decisions made as to any of these topics. Cofer suggested that the program chairman for next year try to solve some of these problems.

Other discussions included a reduction of the papers to one half of a day and one half a day recreation as opposed to a full day of papers. A majority of the members approved of a full day of papers.

Cofer asked where the OAS meeting would be this year. Jimmie Pigg stated that the meeting would be at Northwestern State University at Alva, Oklahoma.

Cofer opened nominations for the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the next two years. Candidates were Keith Thomas, John Stahl, Al Zale and Jeff Boxrucker. Every candidate except Keith Thomas refused to serve. A motion was made to close the nomination (msc: Pigg, Gilliland). Cofer then opened the floor for candidate for the position of Program chairman-President Elect. Mike Ray and Jan Dean were nominated. A motion was made to close the nominations (msc: Pigg, Summers).

Jimmy Pigg then addressed the membership on the topic of the outstanding fisheries research paper award for the Junior Academy of Science. Pigg asked the membership to please assist these students in any way that they could.

Pigg also expressed his thanks to the membership for his outstanding fisheries workers award. Al Zale asked the membership for candidates for this award in 1987.

The meeting adjourned with unanimous consent at 1924 hours.

John Stahl, Secretary/Treasurer

Vote for President-elect

The last page of the newsletter is a ballot for choosing a President-elect. Please take time to read each nominee's qualifications and vote. Also, please complete the Meeting Arrangements Questionnaire on the bottom of the ballot and mail to:

Larry Cofer
HC32, Box 580
Lawton, OK 73501

Results will be tallied and announced at the Oklahoma Academy of Science (OAS) Meeting, November 13.

Please mail your ballots as soon as you receive the Newsletter but no later than November 9, 1987.

Chapter Committee Chairs

The Chapter Committee Chairs for 1987-88 are as follows:

Activities - Keith Thomas
Kids Fishing Day - Jeff Boxrucker
Scenic Rivers - Charlie Scott
Water Quality - Bill Cox
Membership - Gene Gilliland
Caps and shirts - Ron Suttles
Awards - Al Zale

These people need your participation. If you would like to help on any committee, please contact these people and offer your assistance. Al Zale is particularly in need of nominations for the Oklahoma Fishery Worker of the Year. He can be reached at OSU Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit, Stillwater, 405/624-6342.

WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department acquires new property on Blue River

State trout anglers will find more fishing opportunity than ever in about six months with the opening of the Wildlife Department's 900-acre addition to the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area near Tishomingo.

The new land is north of the Department's current Blue River area and adds another 2.5 miles of fishing access along the scenic stream.

In addition to the acquisition, the owners of the land, Marquis Landrum and Brenda Landrum Bingham, have donated another 1920 acres of Blue River property under a Scenic and Conservation Easement, that stipulates the property will be protected from abuse and preserved forever in its natural, scenic condition.

Part of the agreement with the Landrum family allows the Department to lease 406 more acres of Blue River Wilderness property, including another two miles of stream fishing access. The lease runs for 12 years, and the Wildlife Department may purchase the property at that time.

To preserve the new areas, access will be by foot only from any of three parking areas. However, special access will be provided for handicapped persons with wheelchairs.

The area will be patrolled regularly, and no overnight camping will be permitted. Until foot trails, access sites, fences and restroom facilities can be constructed (about six to seven months), the new area will remain closed to the public.

Funding for the acquisition of the new area is through the use of Wallop-Breaux Sport Fishing Restoration funds with the Landrum donation of the scenic and conservation easement

properties used as the state matching portion. The Department is dedicating the area as "The Carl R. and Ruth Walker Landrum Wilderness" in commemoration of the Landrum family donation.

Department expands trout fishing access

Wildlife Department officials have announced plans to acquire more fishing access on the Illinois River designated trout stream.

The Department will enter into a lease agreement with the owners of MarVal Trout Camp to lease access into the area in order to provide free entrance for the fishing public. The agreement covering the 28-acres with about 1/2 mile of trout stream will take effect January 1, 1988.

The lease agreement allows MarVal to register anglers upon entering the property, verify their possession of a trout license and issue a park pass free of charge. Access into the park is restricted to 6 a.m. to 10p.m. for purposes of security.

The MarVal Trout Camp is the middle of three trout release sites where the Department stocks rainbow trout every other week. In addition to the free fishing access, the area will remain open as a trout camp, featuring cabins, campgrounds with RV hook-ups, picnic areas, restroom and shower facilities, 24 hour security and a fishcleaning station.

Department officials also announced that a new access area along the Illinois River designated trout stream has been opened.

The new River Road Access Area is located one mile north of Gore on River Road and gives trout anglers another large stretch of stream fishing opportunity.

The River Road Access Area consists of a newly-built road through Corps of Engineers land down to the river. A parking lot is located near the river bank.

Funding for the project came from the expanded Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration project.

The designated trout area at the Illinois River is located below Tenkiller dam. It is open to trout fishing year round, and the wildlife Department stocks trout at three sites every other week.

AFS NEWS/UPDATE - Carl Sullivan

A 1988 budget of \$1,531.00 was approved by the Executive Committee in the last order of business with revenues projected to match expenditures. It was recognized that some income predictions are a bit 'soft' and if we are to avoid drawing upon our Reserve Fund we must all exert an extra special effort. Among the Excom decisions for increasing the budget were the following:

1. Adding a technical editor and half-time secretary to editorial office.
2. Moving a editorial office from Columbia, MD to the central office in Bethesda.
3. Underwriting the JOBSource program in the amount of \$34,000 in 1988.
4. Giving merit and cost-of-living salary increases to staff.

Among the ways to raise additional finances the Executive Committee voted to:

1. Raise cost of journal subscriptions by \$5.00 per journal.
2. Initiate a \$50 page charge for publishing in the PFC.
3. Increasing annual meeting registration costs by \$25.00.
4. Ask member authorization of a \$5.00 dues increase. The issue will be on the 1988 election ballot.

After a lengthy discussion of AFS certification the Excom voted unanimously to appoint a committee to review the role of the certification process, to restudy certification requirements, and to identify a possible system for certification renewal. A committee will also be appointed to propose minimum education standards for university fisheries programs. Excom further approved establishment of a committee to initiate contract with state and federal agencies for the purpose of promoting the AFS certification program.

A formal process for selection of the spring Excom meeting site won approval with the understanding that it placed heavy reliance on the recommendation of the President. The 1988 spring meeting will be held in the Seattle, Washington, area at a time that will not conflict with the North American Wildlife Conference and the annual meeting of the National Wildlife Federation.

Under time and place of future annual meetings the Excom

chose Pittsburgh, PA, for 1990 and San Antonio, Texas, for 1991. Already selected were Toronto, Ontario, for 1988, and Anchorage, Alaska for 1989. At next year's annual meeting we will be selecting the 1992 site so potential sponsoring groups from the North Central Division should start thinking about their bids.

A proposal to rebate dues to Chapters in conjunction with a national dues increase to cover the added expense was tabled pending further study. Society members have expressed clear support for such a rebate, but concerns about geographic delineation of Chapter areas will have to be resolved, as well as the issues of substituting rebates for Chapter dues.

AFS will become a sponsor of Project Wild in order to assist the further development and application of the aquatic portion of that program. The Western Division has been a cooperater in developing materials in the past; now the whole Society will have an opportunity to become a visible affiliate of the program that reaches many school children in the U.S., Canada, and other nations. The cost to AFS will be about \$10,000.

CALENDAR

November 13, 1987 - Annual Meeting - Oklahoma Academy of Science, Northwestern State University, Alva, OK. Coordinator: Paul Nighswonger, Department of Biology, Alva, OK 73717, 405/327-1700, ext. 383.

November 13, 1987 - Annual Business Meeting - OK Chapter AFS, held in conjunction with the OAS meeting, Northwestern State University, Alva, OK.



Your purchase
of fishing equipment
and motor boat fuels supports
Sport Fish Restoration and
boating access facilities

BALLOT
OK CHAPTER AFS
PRESIDENTR-ELECT

VOTE FOR ONE:

Mike Ray (Check Box)

Jan Dean (Check Box)

Mike received his M.S. degree in Zoology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois in 1978. He has worked for the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation for 10 years and has been the Byron State Fish Hatchery manager since 1984. Mike's expertise is in the area of extensive and intensive culture of warm-water and cool-water sport fishes and in fish hatchery construction and design. Most of his research has been involved with hatchery production problems associated with striped bass and hybrid striped bass culture.

"Our Oklahoma Chapter of the AFS needs to establish goals and have a reason for existance. Without goals our organization will become even more inactive and membership will decline. At our August meeting I heard several proposals for worthwhile activities with which we might get involved, but virtually every one was voted down. Let's decide on one activity, such as Jan Dean's proposal to sponsor and participate in kid's fishing derbies across the state, and get involved. If elected, I'll try to establish an organizational goal and get the membership active in this endeavor."

Jan Dean was reared on a small dairy farm and beef cattle ranch in central Louisiana. He married Debra Jordan in 1975; their children are Matthew (age 7) and Shannon (age 3). Jan received his B.S. degree in Wildlife at Louisiana Tech, his M.S. degree in Fisheries at Mississippi State U. and his Ph.D. at Virginia Tech U. Most of Jan's research has involved fish culture, nutrition and growth. He is currently the Assistant Chief/Fish Management for ODWC, involved in all phases of freshwater fisheries management and is especially interested in fish sampling techniques, data interpretation and communicating with anglers. Jan has served on AFS committees at State, division and national levels and is a Certified Fisheries Scientist.

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS QUESTIONNAIRE

Do you prefer a centralized (OKC metro) location:

City other than OKC?

Resort/Lodge (Specify preference, if any) _____

Other (Identify) _____

What topic(s) would you like to hear about? _____

What guest speaker(s) do you suggest? _____

What organized activities can we sponsor (at the annual meeting or other times) that would interest you? _____

Thank you - please fold, staple, and return your response to:

Larry Cofer
HC 32, Box 580
Lawton, OK 73501