

# OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Volume 18(1)

## ***THE LATERAL LINE***

July 1997

### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

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As all of you are well aware, this is THE fisheries season, so each of us is busy, busy, busy. The other day I had the opportunity to assist with a fishing clinic at the Holdenville State Fish Hatchery. About 25 kids had a ball catching channel catfish from one of the hatchery ponds. One little girl caught 21 fish in a little over an hour, and Doil Meeks helped one four year old boy catch the largest catfish of the day. I'm positive that even the catfish were enjoying the fun atmosphere surrounding these kids. The crawdads we were using for bait, on the other hand, seemed a bit miffed by the situation. The smiles on the faces of both children and adults reminded me that this why I do what I do. It's not about genetic stocks, human uses, diversity, or regulation. Our ultimate goal is to put a fish on the end of a youngster's line and to insure that this experience will remain a viable option for the rest of that person's life.

Sure, it's not quite that simple, but from that child's viewpoint it is. And ultimately, we must recruit the younger generation into fishing and instill in them the respect we all have for our aquatic resources. At a recent chapter EXCOM meeting we discussed several items that could have great long-term impacts on the aquatic resources of Oklahoma simply because they would recruit and keep people in touch with the resource. One was aquatic education clinics for youngsters and

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the other was farm pond management seminars. Each of these activities could potentially spread our message and impact the views of thousands of Oklahomans. Fishing clinics would educate kids and hopefully instill some environmental respect in them, while pond management could improve the quality of fishing all across Oklahoma, thereby increasing fishing opportunities and recruiting new anglers (build it and they will come kind of stuff) while teaching some sound pond management

*(See Page 2: MESSAGE)*

**MESSAGE** (Continued from Page 1)

techniques to landowners. Hopefully, through the trickle down of this information, we could indirectly impact several other people for every one person we had direct contact with. If you are interested in conducting or helping with an aquatic education event, contact Shelby Finney, ODWC Aquatic Education Coordinator, at 405/521-4603. If you want to help develop the farm pond management program or are interested in giving workshops in your area, contact Ken Cunningham. Another great advantage to the pond management seminars is the income potential. Gene Gilliland informed me that at a recent seminar he conducted, he sold nearly as many of the Chapter's pond management books as he had attendees. By selling the pond management books, our Chapter's student travel fund could grow by leaps and bounds. Way to go Gene!

Don't forget the Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting coming up at the Southeastern in October. This meeting will be in the afternoon of Tuesday October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Medallion Hotel in Downtown OKC. Your attendance is encouraged.

As everyone dives into their individual projects, be they habitat improvement, fish production and stocking, sampling, preparation for an upcoming meeting, or whatever, we should keep in mind that it is the fish and the fishing that keep us coming to work every day.

Brian Bristow, President

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**EXCOM MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
**WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 1997, OFRL**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by President Brian Bristow. Other officers in attendance were Ken Cunningham, Bill Fisher, Gene Gilliland, Craig Paukert, Bill Stark, Greg Summers, and Bill Wentroth.

Secretary-Treasurer Wentroth gave the Treasurer's report (*See Page 4*) and then gave a report from the Ad-Hoc Finance Committee Meeting held prior to the EXCOM. The committee was given authority, at the Chapter Business Meeting held at Lake Texoma last autumn, to investigate and recommend an investment strategy with Merrill Lynch to maximize the return on Chapter scholarship

money. Revenue from the AFS Southern Division Mid-Year Meeting co-hosted with the Texas Chapter was \$1,700. This would bring the dollar amount available for investment to \$9,000. A recommendation was made to invest \$6,750 (75%) in the Franklin Income Fund and \$2,250 (25%) in the Merrill Lynch Global Allocation Fund. After discussion on Market trends, Wentroth moved to approve the recommendation with Dollar Cost Averaging used to move the \$9,000 into the Fund over the next 12 months. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion from Fisher on additional student scholarships lead to a referral to the

(*See Pa*)

*Activities Committee*

**Vacant**

*Continuing Education Comm.*

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**EXCOM** (Continued from Page 2)

Nominations and Awards Committee for consideration.

A motion from Bristow to increase the two Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarships from \$100 to \$200, contingent on funds, was seconded and passed unanimously.

The President gave a brief report concerning the joint meeting with the Arkansas Chapter scheduled for the Spring, 1998. Location will be in Eastern Oklahoma

with the Kansas Chapter possibly included. Continuing education topics might include mussels, fish diseases, GIS, and age and growth methods. Chapter members will be surveyed to determine interest levels of different topics. The Oklahoma Chapter will sponsor the workshops to produce revenue. A raffle will not be included as part of the meeting.

The EXCOM was requested to endorse Teeming with

Wildlife. A motion to this affect was made by Summers. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Oklahoma Chapter is responsible for sponsoring the Student/Professional Mixer at the SEAFWA/Southern Division Business Meeting in October. Fisher will coordinate with Bristow on the planning. Bristow moved to donate up to \$250 towards the mixer's budget. The motion was seconded and passed. The Student Sub-unit agreed to also donate to the mixer.

Paukert gave the Student Sub-unit's report. They currently have a balance of \$752 in their account, earned primarily from t-shirt sales. The sub-unit currently has 22 members; statewide involvement is their biggest problem. The newsletter has worked well in getting Faculty Advisor's and Student Representatives at state schools. ORU has indicated a recent interest. The Annual Fisheries Techniques Demonstration was recently held at Lake Carl Blackwell. This event, funded entirely by the Sub-unit, was successful, with 29 students in attendance. A total of seven fisheries techniques were demonstrated and these were followed by a social. Future activities include outreach at county fairs, designing a display for the unit, funding a travel scholarship for undergraduates, and a continuing effort to encourage involvement from students statewide.

The Minnesota Chapter asked for a \$200 donation to support a symposium on Human Interactions with aquatic organisms. After discussion on background and objectives of the symposium, the EXCOM denied the request and the President will write a statement letter.

Fisher encouraged the EXCOM to apply for Southern Division Chapter of the Year. Bristow is filling out the forms and requests members to bring to his attention any worthy activities or programs for inclusion.

Summers gave a report from the Mid-year Meeting. It was extremely successful, with a profit a profit of \$1700 for the Chapter and an attendance of 400, the largest of any Mid-Year Meeting (*See Page 4*). The Chapter received a Resolution of Appreciation from the AFS Southern Division for hosting the meeting.

A request from Kristen Clark, Editor of *Fisheries*, for contributors, editors, and reviewers for articles was received. Interested members should contact Bristow. Gilliland suggested that the Chapter sponsor a fishing clinic on Lake Arcadia for carp. The EXCOM suggested that an article in a future issue of *The Lateral Line* address this to determine interest and identify a champion for the event.

Bristow suggested the Chapter give a report in the Southern Division Newsletter. Appropriate material will be included with a report from Paukert on Student Sub-unit activities.

In new business, a concern was addressed on movement of the pond booklets. Cunningham will develop and coordinate a "canned" Pond Management Seminar so the Chapter can sponsor regional seminars. This has been an extremely effective method of selling the pond booklets and promoting Chapter activities to the public (*See Page 6*).

The Chapter will not have a 1997 annual meeting. The next meeting will be with Arkansas and possibly Kansas in early 1998. The current President and

President-Elect's terms will be over a year in length, which is contrary to the Chapter by-laws. Summers motioned to leave the current officers in place until the next annual meeting and ask the Nominations

*(See Page 4: EXCOM)*

**EXCOM** (Continued from Page 3)

Committee for a list of names in the fall of this year to be voted on for 1998. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The Nominations and Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year and the Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarships. Nominations are due by 30 August (*See Page 6*).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 PM.

Submitted by Bill Wentroth

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Cash Management Account**

Starting Balance (01 January 1997)      \$ 8,218.44

Credits

Student Sub-Unit T-Shirts Sales	1,948.40
Southern Division Mid-Year Meeting	2,398.57
Pond Booklet Sales	213.00
Cash Management Account Dividends	125.88
Membership Dues	190.00
Student Sub-Unit Loan Payment	450.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,325.85</b>

Debits

Student Sub-Unit Expenses	2,016.83
Printing	108.00
Jimmie Pigg Scholarships	200.00
Postage	44.00
Cash Management Account Fee	1.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,369.87</b>

Total Credits      \$ 5,325.85

Total Debits      2,369.87

Balance      \$ 2,955.98



Ending Balance (14

May 1997)      \$ 11,174.42

Student Sub-Unit Bal.

(14 May 1997)      \$ 691.26

## 1997 Mid-Year a Huge Success!

As many of you have probably already heard, the 1997 Mid-Year Meeting our Chapter co-hosted with Texas was a huge success. Close to 400 paid registrants were present in San Antonio last February to hear the 124 presentations and view an additional 7 posters. There were sessions on instream flow (sponsored by the Instream Flow Committee), human dimensions of fisheries, *Morone* biology and management, marine Sciaenid biology and management, instream sand and gravel mining (sponsored by the Warmwater Streams Committee), management of small impoundments (sponsored by the Small Impoundments Committee), and others. There were also numerous technical committee meetings and a continuing education opportunity on instream flow issues sponsored by the Instream Flow Committee.

The meeting began on a high note with the AFS Point-Counterpoint session addressing "Privatization of public fisheries management activities: how will the resource be affected?". Larry Olmsted (Duke Power Company) moderated for panelists Mike Spenser (Georgia Department of Natural Resources), Fred

Harris (North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission), Barry Smith (American Sportfish Hatchery, AL), and Malcomb Johnson (Johnson Lake Management, TX). Many of the 240 session attendees were still talking about the topics as they headed to the airport for the trip home. Hats off to Larry and the panelists for a fine job.

Students were well represented in San Antonio. Approximately 40 of the 80 students attending the meeting took advantage of the registration waiver and helped run the meeting. The Student Affairs Committee bought rooms for 55 students. The funds came from the Southern Division coffers plus a contribution from the Reservoir Committee. A feature for students was a very successful Student Professional Development Session.

Once again, a richly deserved (and earned the old fashion way!) thanks for a job well done to members of our Chapter, the Texas Chapter, and others who contributed to the success of the 1997 Mid-Year Meeting.

## MEMBERS OPINION On The Human Use of Fish

It was inevitable that the rising tide of "animal rights" would eventually seek to undermine anglers and fisheries biologists. After all, our close associates, the hunters and game managers, have been inundated for decades by the "Bambi syndrome."

How far will the argument go? In the near future,

we'll be told to quit swatting pesky mosquitos, gnats and wasps. We'll be told to slow down when we see "Bug Crossing" signs on the highways.

Even walking will be criticized, since the act is responsible for killing thousands of microbes with each step. Drinking will eventually have to end too, since we kill billions of zooplankters every hour at water



treatment plants. It seems only at that point, when humans are denied life, that evolution of the animal rights ideology will come to its logical conclusion.

Taken to this end, the animal rights argument would be downright funny if it wasn't endorsed by so many misguided zealots. Reasonable humans must draw the line, and fisheries professionals should now respond because our cause is compelling and our future depends on it.

AFS policy writers are correct to draft a pro-active position on the issue, since our society was founded on the use of fish as a renewable resource for human benefit. A basic, stated goal of AFS is to promote "scientific research and enlightened management of aquatic resources for optimum use and enjoyment by the public."

To adopt a position that leans any more toward animal rights, or to integrate animal activists as AFS members would be to change the fabric of our Society and insult thousands of core members.

The human use of fish is so universal, so basic and necessary that to believe otherwise is to deny human life to billions. Ancient cultures are rich in fisheries tradition and still extremely dependent on fish as sustenance.

It might be said that the use of fishes by humans is ordained, or was at least supported by Christ Himself. Never did He admonish the commercial-fishing disciples to stop netting fish, and at least twice He divided fish to feed thousands of hungry followers.

Furthermore, to hold humans to a standard above the earth's other, less "humane" creatures is to deny

evolution and our place in ecology. If we were to quit eating fish, wouldn't it also be reasonable to expect bears to quit snagging salmon in mid-air, and for eagles, ospreys, herons, kingfishers and raccoons to stop harassing fish and feeding the flesh to their offspring?

The fish rights argument is misplaced. Rather than concentrating on the capture and consumption of individual fish, the movement would accomplish more for the good of animals to fight our common enemies of pollution and development that threaten entire populations and species.

Besides their role in ensuring fishing success for humans, fisheries professionals are expected to monitor and protect aquatic animals that few humans benefit from directly. And largely, the funding for these non-game conservation efforts has come from consumptive minnow-dippers and dough-baiters, or from taxpayers that will never care that we have 123 darter species in America.

It is basic to most cultures and religions that man should treat the environment and its creatures with respect. That tenant is not in question. The killing of fish strictly for sport or unnecessary experimentation is already condemned by resource agencies, AFS and other scientific organizations.

However, to deny anglers the right to catch and consume fish, or to confer human rights to fish, would be to deny our history, our evolution, and our future.

By Larry Cofer

*Editor's Note: The "Member's Opinion" segment of the "Lateral Line" is available to ANY AND ALL members for expressing opinions on current issues*

*relating to fisheries. If anyone has a counter-opinion to the above article or an opinion on any other issue,*

## **JIMMIE PIGG STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD**

The Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Fund is named in honor of educator and aquatic biologist Mr. Jimmie Pigg, who donated the initial Chapter funding to create the award. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students and exceptional undergraduates to attend American Fisheries Society meetings. Past recipients are Paul Balkenbush (OSU), Phillip Gaines (OU), Conrad Toepfer (OSU), and Kirsten Work (OU).

Any student who is active in fisheries and related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply. Recipients are selected by the Chapter Nominating and Awards Committee and are presented the award at the fall business meeting. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, contribution to fisheries, and the applicant's demonstrated desire and need for the award.

Financial support will not exceed \$200 for one applicant or \$100 each for two successful applicants. Awards will be based on merit and will not necessarily be given each year. Interested students should contact Nominating and Awards Committee Chair Kim Erickson at 405/521-4606 for more information and appropriate forms. **APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 30 AUGUST.**

## **OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Nominating and Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for the Oklahoma Chapter's most prestigious award, **The Outstanding Fisheries**

*please contact Ken Cunningham at 405/325-7288 or [kkcunningham@ou.edu](mailto:kkcunningham@ou.edu).*

**Worker of the Year Award.** This award is presented annually to an Oklahoma fisheries professional who has made significant contributions in the field of aquatic resources conservation, management, research, culture, or education. Fishery workers in Oklahoma have, over the years, amassed a multitude of achievements and advancements in fisheries science. This award recognizes their efforts.

It's time to select the individual from among our ranks who deserves the special recognition this award endows. Please take a moment and think about who deserves the award in 1998. Nominations should include a descriptive justification, with examples of work excellence, explaining why your nominee deserves this coveted recognition. Think about it and then contact Kim.

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are also being solicited for President-Elect. Brian Bristow will be stepping down as Chapter President at the 1998 Technical Meeting next February, and President-Elect Bill Stark will be taking over as President. The successful nominee will not only take over the reigns as Chapter leader in 1999, this person will become the Program Chair for the 1999 Chapter meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for this position, contact Kim.

## **THE CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Our Chapter is in the process of developing a Farm Pond Management Seminar program. The primary goals of this program would be to:

- Provide pond owners across Oklahoma sound management techniques.
- Provide a vehicle by which the Chapter could sell

the *Managing Pond Fisheries in Oklahoma* booklets.

- Provide training for personnel from other agencies and develop a common reference that can be used by all of those providing information.

The idea is to develop a “canned” slide presentation, and then organize seminars through CCS Offices, ODWC Law Enforcement Officers, commercial fish producers, and other interested parties.

## CALENDAR

August 24-28, 1997 - *The 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AFS*. Monterey Convention Center, Doubletree and Marriott Hotels, Monterey, California. Contact Paul Brouha, AFS, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 110, Bethesda, MD 20814; 301/897-8616, ext. 209; FAX 301/897-8096; Email pbrouha@fisheries.org.

September 5-6, 1997 - *The Magnuson - Stevens Act: Sustainable Fisheries for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?* Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact Sharon Stevenson, Tulane Law School, 6329 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70118-5670; 504/865-5925; Email srsteven@law.tulane.edu.

October 5-8, 1997 - *The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*. Medallion Hotel, Oklahoma City. Contact Kim Erickson, Program Committee Chair, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105; 405/521-4606; FAX 405/521-6535; Email kim\_erickson@mail.fws.gov.

November 7, 1997 - *The 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Meeting Oklahoma Academy of Science*. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha. Contact

The slide presentation has already been developed, and Ken Cunningham will be responsible for scheduling and coordinating the seminars. What the Chapter needs are volunteers to step forward and actually communicate the information. It is important that these individuals have an extensive knowledge of farm pond management techniques and be willing to share this knowledge with the public. Those interested should contact Ken at 405/325-7288.

Bryon Clark, Chair, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Section, Biology Department, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Station A Box 4906, Durant, OK 74701; 405/924-0121, ext. 210; FAX 405/920-7476; Email bkclark@sosu.edu. Submission deadline for titles is September 15, 1997.

February 26-March 1, 1998 - *Midterm Technical Meeting of the AFS Southern Division*. Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky. Hosted by the Kentucky Chapter. Contact Jarrad Kosa, Program Chair, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, KY 40601; 502/564-5448; Email jkosa@mail.state.ky.us. Submission deadline for special sessions and symposia is August 15th, 1997. Submission deadline for abstracts is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1997.

June 23-28, 1998 - *First Ictalurid Symposium*. Davenport, Iowa. Contact Steve Eder, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65109; FAX 573/526-4047; Email eders@mail.conservaion.state.mo.us.

**OKLAHOMA AFS MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL FORM**

**COMMITTEES** (Please check at least one)

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Activities Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Aquatic Education \_\_\_\_\_

Continuing Education Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Concerns Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating and Awards Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Program Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle Committee \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

1 Year \$5: \_\_\_\_\_

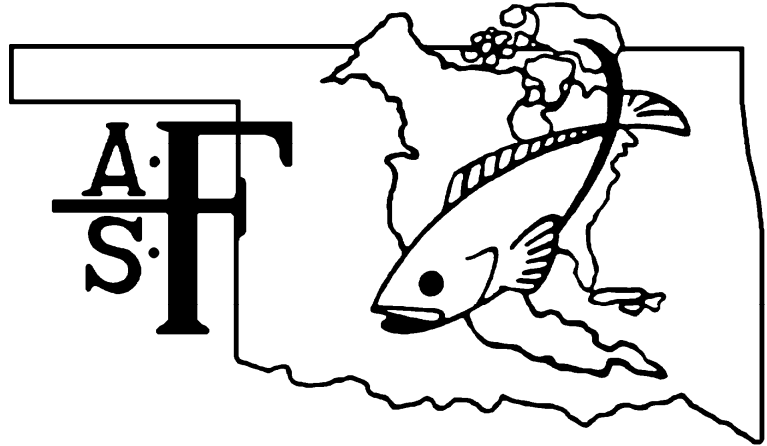
2 Years \$10: \_\_\_\_\_

3 Years \$15: \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE \$50: \_\_\_\_\_

Detach, make check payable to *OKAFS*, and send to: Bill Wentroth, Secretary-Treasurer, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Rt. 2 Box 480, Ponca City, OK 74604. For parent society membership information, contact Bill at 405/762-2248 or [bill\\_wentroth@mail.fws.gov](mailto:bill_wentroth@mail.fws.gov).

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