

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Volume 21(1)

THE LATERAL LINE

July 2000

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello from Higgins, America. I hope the sun is shining brightly in your part of the world.

The torches of leadership were passed recently at the EXCOM meeting held with our annual Chapter meeting. I would like to thank Julia Matlock for her participation over the past two years and I look forward to working with her while she serves as Past President. We also had a bittersweet change of the guard at Secretary/Treasurer. Bill Wentroth has served our Chapter well for several years and has relinquished his duties (the bitter part) to the capable Brent Gordon (the sweet part). The icing on the cake is that Bill took over the reins as President Elect and we will benefit from his efforts over the next few years.

By all accounts the 2000 Annual Meeting went well. We had good food, fellowship and even made a little money. Special thanks go to all that participated in the event. If you have never put one of these together, the first thing you learn is that it can't be done alone. Many people made personal and work-related sacrifices to make the meeting a success. Speaking for the Chapter, I thank each of you.

Since our annual meeting is largely a technical event, it takes good papers to make it work. This year was no exception. We had 20 excellent talks that contributed to the education of the Chapter. While it was a challenge to pick the best from the bunch, our Awards Committee found the most notable speakers including Terrence Malloy (Best Student Paper) and Dr. Tim Patton (Best Professional Paper). This committee also had the challenge of picking one person from our elite group to receive the prestigious Fisheries Worker of the Year award. Congratulations go to Dr. William L. Fisher for setting this high standard of quality for fisheries professionals in Oklahoma.

Now that the annual event is over, the true challenge for our Chapter is to keep the wheels turning throughout the year. We heard several good ideas at

EXCOM regarding activities, continuing education, fund-raising, etc. However, participation in related committees is more viscous. Many of our committees have old faces doing the work and my sense is that some of them are ready for a break. Considering this, the EXCOM has given the committee roster serious thought. I appreciate the volunteers we have received (some new and some veterans) and hope the folks nominated for appointment (you will soon know who you are) will accept the challenge with enthusiasm. This is your Chapter and it will take everyone rowing in the same direction to keep it moving forward.

Our horizon for the new millennium looks bright. The Chapter has some money in the bank, our schools still produce capable fisheries professionals and our employing agencies continue to fight the good fight. However, many challenging storms remain to be weathered. Our changing world is full of hurdles including competing water resource issues, degraded habitat, sluggish licence sales and shoestring budgets. This is a time when the job description of a fisheries worker is hard to write and includes words like educator, promoter, fund-raiser and communications specialist. I believe our Chapter membership has the skills necessary to accept these challenges and will meet them boldly. I am happy to work in your ranks and look forward to serving you over the next year.

Happy Trails.

Paul Balkenbush
President Oklahoma Chapter of the AFS

Contributions to *The Lateral Line* are always welcome. Any information of interest to Chapter members is appropriate and appreciated. We will be publishing the next issue in December, so please send any information which you would like to appear in the next issue to: Maureen Walsh, OK Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, 404 Life Sciences West, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078; phone 405/744-6342; fax 405/744-5006; e-mail wmauree@okstate.edu. Comments, suggestions for improvement, and fish art or graphics to include would also be appreciated.

Activities Committee

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Environmental Concerns Comm.

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Fundraising Committee

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**Oklahoma Chapter of the American
Fisheries Society
2000 Annual Business Meeting
March 3, 2000**

Julia Matlock (President) opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and stated there was a quorum present. Twenty-Five members were in attendance.

Jeff Boxrucker was recognized as the Vice President of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. Jeff had a few comments to make to the group. The first issue that the parent society is concerned about pertains to dam removals. A proposal to lower four dams on the Snake River came from the Idaho Chapter of the AFS. In the near future a National Dam Removal Symposium is scheduled, with the parent society making a formal statement following.

Jeff also commented on the professionalism exhibited by the search committee for a new Executive Director of the AFS. Jeff was selected to serve on this committee and announced the successor to be **Gus Rassam**. After giving Gus's biography, he mentioned that he has already reduced the budget deficit of the society from \$300,000 to \$30,000. Gus is supporting a reduction in membership dues to the parent society in an attempt to recruit more members. Membership has been relatively "flat" at around 8,500 recently. A proposal to reduce memberships for early career candidates is also being considered.

The Southern Division's President **Marty Hale** has vowed to increase chapter involvement with Division officers attending all chapter meetings. Marty is a fisheries biologist from Florida and concerned with better meeting the needs of students (free rooms will be provided at the Southeastern) and initiating a mentoring program involving senior biologists throughout the Southern Division.

Jeff also mentioned that the SEAFWA meetings will restructure the paper sections to include more case studies histories to provide opportunities for management biologists to present their work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities Committee - Barry Bolton

Approximately 70 were in attendance during the papers sections of the annual meeting. It was a successful meeting with the quality of the papers and presentations being excellent. A discussion followed concerning the direction this committee should take regarding recruitment of members and what type of activities are wanted during annual meetings.

Comments received were: 1) more continuing education workshops are needed at annual meetings. 2) outreach activities possibilities : judging state science fair projects in the aquatic area. Plaques and awards could be given to honor contestants; 4-H judging could also be considered; 3) the EXCOM was asked to consider the direction of the activities committee at their next meeting.

Environmental Concerns - Julia Matlock

No report

Continuing Education - Steve Spade

Steve said that it was time to survey the membership to determine their educational needs. If the chapter holds a joint meeting with another state chapter in 2001, the committee would develop a workshop.

Raffle Committee - Barry Bolton

The committee will be called the "**Fund Raising Committee**" in the future. The silent auction produced \$241.00 for the chapter. Gene Gilliland asked members to start collecting fishing trips, tackle, art, etc. early for next year's auction. It was decided to set goals for the use of the money collected by the auction. The EXCOM will determine the area of benefit for next year's auction.

Nominations and Awards Committee - Kim Erickson

Kim announced the recipients of the awards given out at the OKAFS Banquet. The Best Professional Paper

Award was given to **Dr. Tim Patton** of Southeastern University—Durant for his paper, “Effort needed to estimate species richness in small streams on the Great Plains in Wyoming.” Best Student Paper Award was presented to **Terrance Malloy** a graduate student at Oklahoma State University for his paper, “Genetic structure of mixed native/non-native smallmouth bass populations in two Oklahoma reservoirs.” The Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year 1999 was presented to **Dr. Bill Fisher** of Oklahoma State University for his dedicated work at the Division, Chapter and University level. Bill was instrumental in establishing the Student Chapter from Oklahoma.

The \$200 Jimmy Pigg Student Travel Scholarship went to **Barbara Adams**, a graduate student from the University of Oklahoma.

Elections were determined by ballots and **Brent Gordon** was elected Secretary/Treasurer for the year 2000.

Treasurers Report - Bill Wentroth

The report was given and approved. See Treasurer’s Report, page 6.

New Business - Paul Balkenbush

Julia welcomed **Paul Balkenbush** as the new chapter President and thanked him for a tremendous meeting. Paul acknowledged Julia Matlock for her service to the chapter over two years and presented her with an award to show the chapter’s thanks.

Bob Martin submitted a proposal to recognize **Larry Stincholmb** for his work on the Chrystal Lake facility with a letter from the President to the Larry Stincholmb Family. A motion was so made and approved.

A motion was made to change the name of the Jimmie Pigg Student Travel Scholarship to the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Student Scholarship. After discussion, the motion was not passed and the name will be unchanged.

The chapter was in favor of awarding a gift certificate to **Sheri Bolton** who provided the meat, at no charge to the chapter, for the social and afternoon lunch at the Technical Session.

Responsibilities for all chapter committees were read from the OKAFS Procedures Manual and volunteers from the floor were taken for each committee. Chairs for each committee will be appointed by the President at the EXCOM meeting.

An ad hoc committee addressing chapter membership was discussed. Recruitment targeting professional organizations such as the DEQ and the Conservation Commission was addressed. Greg Summers volunteered to investigate the need and report to the EXCOM.

Glen Gebhardt reminded members that he was the chapter’s Pond Coordinator and would assist with any need in that area.

Student Chapter - Randy Hyler

Randy reported that the voting ballots were in and the new officers were: President -Maureen Walsh, Vice President - Jason Remshardt; Secretary/Treasurer - Cliff Sager. Randy reported that there was good attendance (30-40) at the Fisheries Techniques Demonstration (FTD). The student chapter sponsored guest speaker David Philipp, from the Illinois Natural History Survey, addressing the problems associated with stocking non-native fish.

A discussion on how to encourage student involvement at chapter meetings was held. The ideas to waive registration fees for students was addressed. This could be accomplished, unless we have a joint chapter meeting, then, only if it is worked out between chapters.

The Student Chapter will survey the members to develop a list of needs that can be addressed later this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

**Oklahoma Chapter of the American
Fisheries Society
EXCOM Meeting
April 03, 2000**

This meeting was a meeting via telephone between the Higgins ODWC Regional Office and the North Central ODWC Regional Office.

Minutes:

Attendants: Paul Balkenbush - President, Bill Wentroth - President Elect. and Brent Gordon - Sec/Tres.
Absent: Julia Matlock - Past President

I

President Balkenbush began the meeting by reading from the OKAFS Bylaws stating the purpose for the April EXCOM meeting:

1) Setting a place for the 2001 OKAFS meeting:

The idea of a joint meeting with a neighboring chapter was brought up at the February Business Meeting which was addressed by President Elect Wentroth as follows:

- a. Texas: had a joint meeting last year and was not interested this year.
- b. Arkansas: not interested this year.
- c. Missouri: they were already committed to a joint meeting but, did express an interest in the future.
- d. Kansas: still had not heard from them but, it seemed unlikely.

After discussion the decision was made not to have a joint meeting in Feb. of 2001.

The following two sites were discussed for the Feb. 2001 meeting including Stillwater and Tulsa. Pres. Elect Wentroth will look into both sites and make the decision with the EXCOM's approval.

Potential dates for the 2001 OKAFS meeting: President Balkenbush suggested that Pres. Elect

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Wentroth sent Kim Erickson, Chief of Fisheries (ODWC), Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries (ODWC), Greg Summers, Director of OK Fisheries Research Lab (ODWC) and Harold Namminga, Fed. Aid Coordinator (ODWC) a choice of three dates from which to choose. After discussion, the following dates were agreed to be proposed by the EXCOM: Feb. 5,6,7; Feb. 21,22,23; Feb. 26,27,28.

II Old Business:

President Balkenbush stated that it was asked at the March OKAFS business meeting if the EXCOM could give the activities committee direction. President Balkenbush also wanted to take a look at all the committee personnel.

Activities Committee: After discussing how a lot of the social events during the year that had been planned in the past were not very well attended, the EXCOM decided they would like the activities committee to concentrate their efforts on the OKAFS meeting. The EXCOM suggested that they look into the possibility of providing entertainment (i.e. musical or comedy entertainment) at the next OKAFS meeting in Feb. 2001. Direction was provided to the Activities Committee by President Balkenbush.

Each committee's membership was examined. EXCOM members made suggestions on chairs and President Balkenbush said he would contact potential chairs for their approval.

1. Activities Committee:
 - a. Chairperson- Barry Bolton
 - b. Member- Julia Matlock
2. Program Committee:
 - a. Chairperson- Bill Wentroth
 - b. Members - Paul Balkenbush, Brent Gordon, Barry Bolton , Gene Gilliland, Harold Namminga
3. Awards committee:
 - a. Chairperson- Kim Erickson
 - b. Member- Gene Gilliland
 - c. 4. Fund Raising Committee:
 - a. Chairperson- Brandon Brown

- b. Members - Gene Gilliland, Brent Gordon, James Vincent, Bob Martin



- 5. Newsletter Committee:
 - Chairpersons - Jim Long
 - Member - James Vincent

- 6. Continuing Education Committee:
 - a. Co-chairpersons- Steven Spade, Harold Namminga
 - b. Members – Ellen Tejan, Jim Long

- 7. Environmental Concerns Committee:
 - a. Chairperson- Ken Collins
 - b. Members - Brent Gordon, Daniel Fenner, Maureen Walsh, Brandon Brown

III New Business:

President Elect Wentroth stated that President Past Julia Matlock wanted the EXCOM committee to look at the possibility of the OKAFS paying the national AFS dues for EXCOM members.

After discussion on the issue it was decided it was worth presenting for discussion at the next OKAFS general meeting. In particular the dues for the President Elect, President and Sec./Treasure should be paid by the OKAFS.

IV Meeting Adjourned

TREASURER' REPORT
30 August 1999 – 29 February 2000

Starting Balance \$11,893.84

CREDITS

Cash Mgmt. Dividends 86.77
 Membership Dues 25.00
 TOTAL \$111.77

DEBITS

Newsletter Printing and Postage 105.30
 Annual Mtg. Facility Deposit 100.00

TOTAL \$205.30

INVESTMENTS

Franklin, Inc. 269.42
 Global Allocations 291.67
 TOTAL \$561.09

Previous Balance \$11,893.84
 Total Credits \$111.77
 Total Investments \$561.09
 Total Debits -\$205.30
ENDING BALANCE \$12,361.40

1999 INCOME/EXPENSES

CREDITS

Membership (44) 220.00
 Pond Booklets (48) 144.00
 Cash Mgmt. Dividends 174.40
 1999 Annual Mtg. Registration 1,040.00
 T-Shirt Sales (sub-unit) 644.00
 TOTAL \$2,222.40

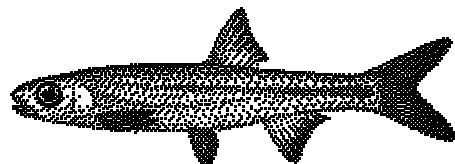
EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing and Postage 174.24
 Student Scholarships 200.00
 T-Shirt Purchases (sub-unit) 268.25
 1999 Annual Mtg. (Roman Nose SP) 570.35
 2000 Annual Mtg. Deposit 100.00
 TOTAL \$1,312.84

INVESTMENTS

Franklin, Inc. (Scholarships) 489.80
 Global Allocations 353.66
 TOTAL \$843.46

Total Income for 1999 \$3,065.86
 Total Expenses for 1999 -\$1,312.84



GAIN FOR 1999 \$1,753.02

OKLAHOMA STUDENT CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Volume 5(1) **THE LATERAL LINE STUDENT SUPPLEMENT** July 2000

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PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have greatly enjoyed my opportunity to serve the Student Subsection for the past two years, and I am going to miss the friends and involvement in the future. Though I am leaving, the experiences I have gained have been beneficial to both me personally and my future career. I have been able to participate in many activities during my tenure here. We have had fund-raising drives with the Wildlife Society and sold numerous T-shirts. I am grateful to have been able to be a part in the development of our Fisheries Involvement Award to help further the opportunities and success of future fisheries professionals. Techniques demonstrations are a wonderful opportunity for exposing students to our work and I'm fortunate to have been involved in this as well. This past fall we were even fortunate enough to participate in a local environmental program in Stillwater.

Being involved in the Student Subsection has helped me to develop professional skills and participate in many opportunities. I hope that the subsection will keep striving to become more active and membership will continue to increase in the future.

Lisa Kiner
Oklahoma Student AFS
Past-President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After being involved with AFS through both the state and student chapters in South Carolina, I am looking forward to becoming a part of the Oklahoma Chapter during my time at Oklahoma State University. The Oklahoma Student Chapter has had a strong history of graduate student involvement, and I am hoping that we can build on this legacy in the year to come. The new officers have recently focused on delineating our goals for the chapter in 2000.

One of our goals is to increase awareness of the student chapter and attract new members. Our recent fisheries techniques demonstration held at Lake Carl

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd)

Blackwell was very successful in this regard, and helped to recruit several new undergraduate members.

We will be scheduling speakers for some of our fall meetings to discuss topics relating to fisheries ecology and management, as well as opportunities for employment in the fisheries field. Fundraising will be high on our priority list. We will be restocking our t-shirt supplies and bringing back some popular designs from the past, as well as working on new ideas for fundraising. I am also working on learning web page development so that our web site can be updated and improved.

I am excited to be representing such a great organization--our members are enthusiastic about the chapter and committed to building on the strengths of the past to move the chapter forward in 2000.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the outgoing officers and officers from past years who have helped to make the transition easier for the new officers, and given us a lot of great ideas. Two of the student chapter's past presidents, Lisa Kiner and Jim Long, have recently left us to join the world of the gainfully employed (Lisa with the Missouri Department of Conservation and Jim with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources). While I will miss their advice and friendship, I know that they will excel in their new positions and represent Oklahoma well.

Maureen Walsh
Oklahoma Student AFS President

5th ANNUAL FISHERIES TECHNIQUES DEMONSTRATION

The fifth annual techniques demo was held on March 25, 2000 at Ski Point on Lake Carl Blackwell, Stillwater. The event involved 30 students from OSU, along with faculty from OSU. Greg Summers and Jeff Boxrucker of the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife

Conservation provided a demonstration of hydroacoustics, GPS, and trawling. Dr. Bill Fisher conducted a review of electrofishing and boating safety for the group. Other gear demonstrated included hoop nets, gill nets, electric seine, and boat electrofishing.

We reserved the pavilion at Ski Point from Lake Carl Blackwell staff, posted fliers and sign-up sheets around the OSU campus, and sent an announcement to representatives from the University of Oklahoma, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and Northeastern Oklahoma State University.

The event got underway at 8:00 am, and participants were divided among four stations, allowing several groups of individuals to see different techniques. These stations included the hydroacoustics and trawler, collecting gill nets and hoop nets which had been set the night before, and boat electrofishing. Individuals were informed of the methods of use and the applications for management of each technique. They were then allowed to participate in operating the gear and collecting fish. Some fish collected were brought back to shore to be identified. After these demonstrations, lunch was provided. After lunch, we conducted an electric seine demonstration, and also provided instructions on setting hoop nets.

Cooperation from all members and volunteers was great and thanks goes out to all who participated in organizing and conducting this event including: Maureen Walsh, Cliff Sager, Jim Long, Baby Sarah, Randy Hyler, Mike Brown, Daniel Fenner, Melissa Willis, Chris O'Melia, Terry Malloy, Lisa Kiner, Dr. William Fisher, Dr. Dana Winkelman, Greg Summers, and Jeff Boxrucker.

Jason Remshardt
Oklahoma Student AFS Vice President

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 January 2000 – 1 July 2000

Starting Balance	\$407.47
CREDITS	
Reimbursement for Newsletter Postage	26.40
TREASURER'S REPORT (cont'd)	
T-Shirt Sales	<u>142.00</u>
TOTAL	\$168.40
DEBITS	
Stranger Creek (T-shirts)	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$50.00
Previous Balance	\$404.47
Total Credits	\$168.40
Total Debits	-\$50.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$525.87

INVOLVEMENT AWARD

The Oklahoma Student Chapter's Fisheries Involvement Award for 2000 has been presented to Greg Cummings. Greg is an undergraduate at Oklahoma State University, where he is majoring in fisheries biology through the Department of Zoology. Greg has volunteered with the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and was recently hired as a part-time technician for the Unit. He has been actively involved with the Oklahoma Student Chapter over the last year. As part of this award, Greg will receive one year's membership to National AFS.

Applications for the 2001 Fisheries Involvement Award will be due in December 1999, and we would like to encourage undergraduates or first year graduate students from all Oklahoma universities to apply. For more information, or to receive an application, please contact Maureen Walsh at wmauree@okstate.edu.

STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

- OSU students Mike Brown, Daniel Fenner, Randy Hyler, Jim Long, Jason Remshardt, Cliff Sager, and Maureen Walsh gave presentations and Ellen Tejan presented a poster at the Midyear Meeting of the Southern

Division of the American Fisheries Society in Savannah, GA.

- Terry Malloy received the Best Student Paper Award at the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for his paper on the genetics of introduced and native smallmouth bass populations in Oklahoma Reservoirs at the OK AFS Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City.
- OSU students Daniel Fenner, Lisa Kiner, Jim Long, Terry Malloy, and Maureen Walsh gave presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists in Denton, TX. Lisa Kiner was a finalist for the Wilks Award, which is presented for the best student paper.
- Maureen Walsh received a John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award, and Jim Long received an Honorable Mention for the John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award from the Education Section of the American Fisheries Society. Both students will be recognized at the Society's Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

We apologize to anyone whose accomplishments were not recognized. Please send student news to Maureen Walsh at wmauree@okstate.edu.

Focus on Students at the AFS Annual Meeting in St. Louis

The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Missouri Department of Conservation have gone out of their way to provide opportunities for students at this year's annual meeting in St. Louis.

Student registration is greatly reduced from previous years, and discounts are also available on a limited number of student rooms. Students may also be able to recoup some of their expenses by working at the meeting. The meeting will feature a student lounge with a job board, and a social event focused connecting students with potential employers or advisors.

For more information on student activities, contact Travis Moore at (573) 248-2530, mooret@mail.conservaation.state.mo.us.

There are tremendous benefits to be gained from attending professional meetings, and the changes this year should make it easier than ever for students to attend. We hope to see a lot of Oklahoma students in St. Louis!

CALENDAR

August 20-24, 2000 - **130th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society.** Adams Mark hotel in downtown St. Louis, MO. The theme for this years meeting is "Reflections". Contact Betsy Fritz, (301) 897-8616 ext. 212; bfritz@fisheries.org.

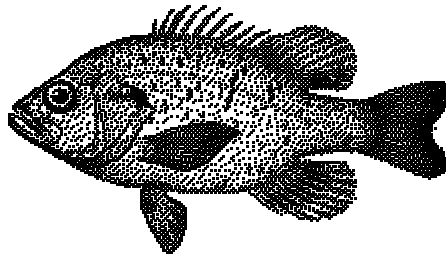
August 21-24, 2000 - **Black Bass 2000: Ecological Strategies for Conservation and Management.** To be held concurrent with the AFS Annual Meeting and will serve as an update to the Black Bass Biology and Management symposium held in Tulsa 25 years ago.

Contact David Philipp (philipp@uiuc.edu) or Mark Ridgway (ridgwama@epo.gov.on.ca).

Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2000 – **Southern Division Annual Meeting.** Baton Rouge, LA. Contact Gary Tilyou, (504) 765-2343, tilyou-g@wlf.state.la.us.

Oct. 31-Nov.3, 2000 – **Third World Fisheries Congress.** Beijing, China. Contact China Society of Fisheries, cnsf-fish@public.bta.net.cn; www.fisheries.moa.gov.cn.

Nov. 5-10, 2000. **24th Annual Larval Fish Conference of the AFS Early Life History Section.** Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, AL. Contact Jim Cowan, Jr., (334) 861-7535; jcowan@jaguar1.usouthal.edu; www.eos.ubc.ca/afs_early/.



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