

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society  
Annual Business Meeting  
Friday, 21 February 2020  
Arkansas Ballroom, Marriott Hotel Downtown  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann announced a quorum was present. President Wes Neal called the 2020 SDAFS Business Meeting to order at 1717 hrs.

Henry Hershey made a motion to approve the agenda, which was then seconded by Dennis Riecke. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported.

President Neal recognized distinguished guests in attendance: AFS President Scott Bonar, AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS President-Elect Brian Murphy, AFS Vice-President Leanne Roulson. President Neal then acknowledged the Past Presidents of SDAFS by having them stand. Past AFS Presidents Jack Wingate and Steve McMullin were also acknowledged.

**AFS President Scott Bonar Remarks:** President Bonar briefed attendees on the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Columbus, Ohio. The meeting will feature exhibits that highlight the history of fisheries and of AFS. He also highlighted the workshops that will focus on communication with the public, as well as, the relationship between politics and science. President Bonar then summarized where he wanted to focus his attention during his term as follows: (1) the development of standards throughout our field; (2) improving science communication; and (3) climate change action. He noted the extreme impacts of climate change he has heard about by visiting other biologists and scientists worldwide. He emphasized the importance of biologists getting out there and talking about their work.

**AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks:** Executive Director Austen highlighted the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Columbus, Ohio. He also listed other upcoming AFS meetings: Baltimore, MD in 2021; Spokane, WA in 2022; Grand Rapids, MI in 2023; and Honolulu, HI in 2024. Executive Director Austen also noted the upcoming World Fisheries Congress in Australia in 2020, as well as, The Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies (CASS), in which AFS is one of nine groups represented by aquatics scientists participating in the event. Executive Director Austen noted the upcoming AFS Governing Board meeting that will be held in Little Rock, AR, directly following the conclusion of the 2020 SDAFS annual meeting. Included on the agenda for the Governing Board Meeting will be the future direction of AFS and climate change. Highlighted was also the Society's involvement in policy making at the national level with the continued efforts supporting the Clean Water Act and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

**President Wes Neal's Report:** President Neal highlighted some of the accomplishments that were made during his term. One action that helped accomplish his goal of getting students more involved in the Division was changing the names of the technical committee meetings to open forums. This was the first year for the name change and it seemed to be successful. In addition to the name change, Brett Timmons noted that technical committees needed more than the required agency representation. President Neal concurred with this statement and encouraged anyone that was interested in a technical committee to join. Also highlighted was the updating of the SDAFS procedural manual. President Neal also encouraged involvement in the upcoming annual meeting of The Society in Baltimore in 2021 that SDAFS is helping to sponsor.

**Secretary-Treasurer Jessica Baumann's Report:**

First, Secretary-Treasurer Baumann noted that the 2019 Business Meeting minutes were posted both in the SDAFS newsletter and website and that we now needed a motion to approve them. A motion was made to approve the 2019 SDAFS Business Meeting minutes, which was then seconded by John Odenkirk. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported.

The 2019 Financial Audit Report, 2019 SDAFS EXCOM Meeting Minutes, and 2019 Budget were previously reviewed at the 2020 EXCOM meeting. As such, Secretary-Treasurer Baumann provided a quick overlook at the Final Budget for 2019 and the proposed Budget for 2020. Noted was the income from the 2019 annual meeting in Galveston, TX. She also noted a couple of line items from the 2019 budget, including the overlooking of historical donations to The Society's EOS, SDAFS's webmaster, and SDAFS newsletter editor due to the transfer of Secretary-Treasurer duties. These 2019 donations were included in the 2020 proposed budget. Also noted was overspending in both the officer travel and AFS donations budget lines, these were due to the EXCOM approved travel of President Neal to The Society annual meeting in Reno, NV, and the \$3,000 donation to Catfish 2020. Secretary-Treasurer Baumann highlighted that funds for the Division were stable with a balance over \$25,000 in December 2019. Also noted was the \$10,000 strategic reserve fund, which has grown \$669 since October 2018.

Secretary-Treasurer Baumann then reviewed the proposed 2020 budget, which she noted remains consistent with the 2019 budget. No major donations from the Division have been requested at this time. The proposed budget indicates that the Division has enough funds to remain operational for 2020.

**Host Meeting Report:** General Meeting Chair Ben Batten and Arkansas Chapter President Matt Schroeder expressed their gratitude for the collaboration that allowed Catfish 2020, SDAFS Annual Meeting, and the Society's Governing Board Meeting to all be held in Little Rock, AR, during the same time period. They also expressed their gratitude to the 2020 SDAFS Annual Meeting Planning Committee that helped organize this meeting that hosted 426 registrants, 51 poster presentations, and 8 symposiums that conducted 165 oral presentations. Special recognition went to Steve Lochmann, Tate Wentz, and J.J. Gladden.

**President-Elect Tom Kwak's Chapter Activity Report:** President-Elect Kwak summarized the 2019 annual reports submitted by AFS Chapters within the Southern Division. Alabama Chapter, which was inactive for several years, has come back strong in 2019 and has held two successful meetings and developed a new chapter logo. Arkansas Chapter's Environmental Affairs Committee drafted 4 letters providing comments and support for state and federal environmental regulations and legislation and submitted them to various law makers. President-Elect Kwak also noted that the chapter has put on a great 2020 SDAFS Annual Meeting which is a big accomplishment. Florida Chapter has excelled in communications including the Shellcracker Newsletter, Facebook profile, the student subunit's blog "Reef to Rivers", and engaged in multiple collaborative aquatic plant management efforts around the state. Georgia Chapter organized a symposium at their annual meeting featuring all the Riverkeepers of the state and manned a tent at Postfest 2019 to educate the public on fisheries related topics. Louisiana Chapter held two workshops this year focused on aquatic plant management and fish ID. Mississippi Chapter established and supported a display at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Fish Hatchery and Education Center which detailed the history of the chapter, the role of science in fisheries management, and featured The C.A. Schultz Conservation Award that they sponsor. North Carolina Chapter updated their website, had great communication thru its listserve, Facebook profile, and newsletter. Oklahoma Chapter jointly hosted the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference with four other science-based groups. Potomac Chapter co-hosted their annual Crabfest at AFS headquarters. Puerto Rico Chapter, our smallest chapter, hosted the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 4 Federal Aid Meeting, hosted two Hutton Scholars, and participated in the first dam removal initiative in Puerto Rico. South Carolina Chapter hosted a workshop in communications in the scientific world and are planning the SDAFS Annual Meeting in 2022. Tennessee Chapter has hosted and supported multiple kids fishing events throughout the state. Texas Chapter, our largest chapter, held a great 2019 SDAFS annual meeting. They also showed great communication through their website, listserve, Twitter and Facebook profiles. President-Elect Kwak also noted that the chapter received the Outstanding Chapter Award from AFS. Tidewater Chapter hosted a student-mentor lunch and conducted a live survey at their annual meeting to determine ethnic, sexual, and religious diversity within the chapter. Virginia, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia chapters all meet together for their 2019 annual meeting. These chapters also supported the Field Guide for the Fishes of Virginia publication. The Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters are planning the 2021 SDAFS Annual Meeting to be held in Arlington, VA. The Virginia Tech Chapter hosted a resume writing workshop and held their annual MudBass tournament to promote youth fishing.

**Vice President Cindy Williams's Technical Committee Report:** Vice President William's encouraged collaboration between all of the divisional technical committees and highlighted work such as the Catfish Technical Committee's Catfish 2020 and the Pollution Committee's 2020 Fish Kill Workshop. Vice President Williams reviewed the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee in coordination with Committee Chair Kevin Mayes and

Secretary-Treasurer Robby Maxwell. She expressed her appreciation for accommodating her in the review and highlighted that one major accomplishment of the committee was creating a digital copy of all their historical documents dating back to 1972.

**Resolutions Committee Report:** Chair of the Resolutions Committee Dennis Riecke presented the Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Chapter to acknowledge the appreciation SDAFS has for the members of the Arkansas Chapter for hosting the 2020 annual meeting. No other resolutions were presented.

**Ballot Committee Report:** In Past President Bond's absence, President Neal announced the winners of the election held electronically in 2019. President Neal noted that there was a large number of volunteers for Student Representative and two very qualified candidates for Vice President. The new officers for 2020 are Jason Olive (Vice President) and Henry Hershey (Student Representative to the EXCOM).

**Presentation of Awards:** President Neal acknowledged Amy Cottrell, Award Committee chair, and Amanda Rosenberger, Student Affairs Committee Chair, for their hard work putting together the divisional and student awards. President-Elect Kwak announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Neal congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The Jack F. Dequine Best Paper Awards were given to the two best papers/presentations presented at the 2019 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies held in Hilton Head, SC. First place was given to Wes Neal (Zachary Moran and Bryant Haley, coauthors) of Mississippi State University for their manuscript/presentation entitled *Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico: Effects on reservoir water quality, community structure, and resilience*. The runner-up award was given to Timothy Birdsong (John Botros, Alana Hoffmann, Stephan Magnelia, Sarah Robertson, and Melissa Parker, coauthors) of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for their manuscript/presentation *Texas River access and conservation areas: A case study in use of riparian leases to enhance angler access and facilitate river stewardship*. Plaques and checks for \$100 (first place) and \$50 (runner-up) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Brian Alford for his service to AFS through The Tennessee Chapter EXCOM, his term as Chairman of the Warmwater Streams Committee, and his participation in fisheries habitat and management committees of SDAFS. Highlighted was Dr. Alford's mentorship of students and that he has always pushed for additional student and professional involvement within AFS.

The Outstanding Chapter Award was presented to the Florida Chapter. President-elect Kwak highlighted the Chapter's commitment to providing educational and outreach opportunities for both students and professionals. The chapter reinvested some of the profit from the 2017 AFS meeting in Tampa into student scholarships and travel grants, as well as, a sizeable donation to two independent fishing outdoor youth education programs. They have a large and active

Student Fisheries Society which co-hosted a continuing education workshop and led a statewide cleanup effort with the chapter.

The Best Student Sub-Unit Award was presented to the University of Georgia. President-Elect Kwak highlighted the sub-unit's commitment to students' professional development, community service, and professional outreach. They partnered with University of Tennessee Sub-Unit on stream restoration efforts, conducted a fish ID and otolith pulling workshop, and hosted kids fishing and outdoor leadership events. They also held their annual fundraising Catfish Fry in which 91 people attended.

Service Appreciation awards were handed out to four individuals. Jessica Feltz for her service as SDAFS Awards Committee Chair from 2016 to 2019. Brandon Peoples for his service as SDAFS Listserv Director from 2016 to 2020. Nicole Rankin for her service as the Student Affairs Committee Chair from 2016 to 2019. Corbin Hilling for his service as the SDAFS Newsletter Editor from 2016 to 2019.

Awards of Merit for publishing at least three manuscripts in SEAFWA between 2017 and 2019 were given to 5 universities/state agencies: (1) Auburn University, (2) Mississippi State University, (3) North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, (4) Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and (5) Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The Best Student Paper from the 2019 SDAFS Meeting in Galveston, TX, was awarded to Patricia Shorter for her work entitled *Influence of the annual flood pulse of the Atchafalaya River on the ecology of aquatic hemipteran and their associates*. Runner-up for Best Student Presentation Award was given to Derek Bolser for his work entitled *Environmental influences on fish density and distribution in the Aransas Ship Canal, TX*. The Best Student Poster Award went to Erin Nguyen for her work entitled *A conceptual framework for studying flow impacts on fish reproductive guilds*.

Kevin Mayes of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to two recipients. The first recipient was Zachary Zbinden, a PhD student from the University of Arkansas. The second recipient was Taylor Dluzniewski, a Master's student from the University of Florida.

Joe McMullen of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee announced Bobby Cope of North Carolina State University as the 2020 Catfish Management Committee Travel Award recipient this year.

Sean Kinney of the SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee presented the Robert M. Jenkins Scholarship to Hadley Boehm of University of Missouri and David Norris of Mississippi State University. Students were presented with a \$500 check courtesy of this year's scholarship sponsors, FishIDing and American Aquatics.

The Oklahoma Chapter presented Dr. Shannon Brewer with their chapter's service award.

Resolution of Appreciation to Host plaques and certificates were given to the Arkansas Chapter and key members of the meeting planning committee. Plaques and certificates were presented to the Arkansas Chapter members.

### **Old Business:**

President Neal noted that the revised bylaws were sent out to the Division members for review. John Odenkirk made a motion to approve the updated bylaws as written, which was then seconded by Mike Allen. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The revised bylaws will now be sent to AFS's Management Committee.

President Neal brought up voting to divide the Division's Best Chapter Award into two categories (Large and Small) to allow for the Division to submit two chapters for the award at The Society level. President Neal noted the two issues with this split, (1) determining the membership cut off between the two categories, and (2) only two divisional chapters would qualify at this moment for the 100+ member cut off for the Large Chapter Award at The Society level. Dennis Riecke made a motion to split the award into two categories, which was then seconded by Shannon Brewer. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Neal brought up for voting to split the Division's Best Student Sub-Unit award into two categories (Large and Small) to allow smaller sub-units a chance to compete against the larger, more established ones. President Neal noted that there were not two awards for sub-units at The Society level and that one issue would be how to determine the cut off between the awards. Discussion included how volatile the membership size of individual sub-units was on a yearly basis, if basing the cut off on membership size. Suggestions included weighing the size of the sub-unit by the size of the university's student body. Voting was tabled and further discussion on this subject was deferred to the Awards Committee

**Puerto Rico Chapter Housing Mexico's AFS Chapter Discussion:** Miguel García, President of the Puerto Rico Chapter, brought forward a discussion that he had with the Mexico Chapter members. The Mexico Chapter is disbanding because it does not have a large enough active membership, and it was suggested that the active members merge with the Puerto Rico Chapter. Miguel noted that he wanted to get feedback from SDAFS members before meeting again with the members of the Mexico Chapter. President Neal commented that there are multiple aquatic scientists located in Latin America that want to be involved in AFS, but don't have enough members to sustain an active chapter. Some discussion ensued, including questioning if the Puerto Rico Chapter was in favor of the merge. Dr. García indicated that the Puerto Rico Chapter has not yet officially met to discuss the matter. No motions for a vote were made.

**Update on WOTUS:** Jessie Green, White River Riverkeeper and Arkansas Chapter's Environmental Chair, gave a presentation to update the members of SDAFS on the current status of the WOTUS (Waters of the US) regulations.

**Installation of 2020 Officers:** New officers were Henry Hershey, Student Representative to the EXCOM; Jessica Baumann, Secretary-Treasurer; Jason Olive, Vice President; Cindy Williams, President-Elect; and Tom Kwak, President.

**Newly Installed President Tom Kwak's Remarks:** President Kwak's first official duty was to recognize the works of Past President Wes Neal with a special plaque and gift of Arkansas Moonshine, Puerto Rico Rum, and Red Wolf Bee Yard Honey, (Kwak's homemade honey). President Kwak then highlighted with attendees the two main goals of his presidential term: (1) to support The Society's President Bonar in his goal to encourage communicating our science and (2) to continue to promote diversity within the division.

**New Business:** President Kwak invited John Odenkirk, Vic DiCenzo, and Brad Fink to speak about the 2021 SDAFS meeting to be held in Arlington, VA. They showed a video that highlighted some of the tourist attractions around the DC area and invited attendees to the meeting next year.

President Kwak expressed his appreciation for the work of the past officers, Past President Craig Bonds and Past Student Representative Sarah Baker.

Meeting was adjourned by President Kwak at 1918 hrs.