



President's message

by Dave Buzan

This has been a wonderfully interesting fall with its highs and lows, I was reminded of both as I listened to the second presidential debate. One of the highs is all the work that has been done preparing for our chapter's upcoming meeting in Corpus Christi in January. Randy Rushin has done a great job organizing the facility and meeting facility. His team, our fellow chapter members, is coming together to support the meeting – recruiting sponsors, organizing continuing education speakers, coordinating registration, etc.

You can contribute to the high points of this fall. Plan to:

- Attend our annual meeting in Corpus
- Make a \$10 donation to the chapter's scholarship fund on your registration form
- If you are an artist, craftsperson, or author, or have one in your family or know one, we want to feature your work in our raffle, silent auction and auction. If you're not the creative type, donations such as gift cards, books, field gear, electronics, and any other outdoor items are also welcome. Please consider donating an item or items.

Each of you make a positive contribution to healthy ecosystems and our society through your work and study. Make another positive contribution and remember to vote this fall. Thank you for all your great work and its positive reflection. We look forward to seeing you in Corpus in January 2017.



President-Elect's message

by Randy Rushin

Hear that? The Coast is Calling You!

The TCAFS annual meeting is right around the corner, and the committees are hard at work planning the conference to be held in Corpus Christi on January 19-21, 2017! We are very fortunate to have such a great group of dedicated members who make our organization AWESOME!

I cannot be more EXCITED about TCAFS!

You may recall the last time that TCAFS was held in Corpus Christi, it was way back at the turn of the century, in 1999. At that meeting, the Panel Discussion was "*Water Use Issues in Texas - A 21st Century Challenge for Fisheries Managers.*" The panel discussed concerns about the rapid growth of Texas' population, especially in urban areas, and its effect on our State's natural resources, including its lakes, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries. Since that meeting, our chapter has expanded our talks to include water quality and quantity issues and their impact on fisheries. For our upcoming convention, we have decided to focus our morning session on water resources and balancing the needs of people, industry, agriculture, and ecology.

We have THE MOST INCREDIBLE speakers on our agenda!

You don't want to miss the opportunity to hear from some of our State's leading experts:

Dr. Robert Mace	Deputy Executive Administrator; Water Science & Conservation Texas Water Development Board
Glenn Clingenpeel	Executive Manager Planning and Environmental Services Trinity River Authority
Cindy Loeffler	Water Resources Manager Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Arrive in time on Thursday to attend the Continuing Education workshops. Lynn Wright, committee chair, has tentatively scheduled these timely and interesting presentations:

"Remote Sensing in Habitat & Fisheries Assessments" – Emma Clarkson, TPWD Coastal Fisheries

"Otolith Microchemistry 101: An Introduction for Fisheries Scientists" - Dr. Benjamin Walther and Dr. Matthew Altenritter, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations - Holiday Inn Downtown Marina

The hotel is in a PRIME location, in the heart of downtown, across from the People's T-head, Water Street, and just down the street from the Texas State Aquarium, USS Lexington, and the original Whataburger. As a bonus, the hotel has extended the rate to Wednesday and Saturday nights --- so bring your FAMILY, come EARLY and stay LATE!

RESERVATION PHONE NUMBER: 888-729-5058 Block code - "TCA" valid until 12/29
\$105 Single and \$115 Double, includes parking

See you in January!





1st CALL FOR PAPERS

2017 Annual Meeting Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society

January 19 – 21, 2017
Corpus Christi, Texas

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are requested for the 2017 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will be held Thursday through Saturday, January 19 – 21, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina in Corpus Christi, Texas. To submit an abstract to be considered for the technical program, please provide the following information:

Author name(s) (presenting author should be noted with an *)
Presentation type (oral or poster ... please indicate whether you are willing to present the data in the alternative format if requested)
Contact information (affiliation, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, and email address)
Presentation title
Abstract (Single paragraph, 300-word maximum length)

In addition, please indicate your intentions for the presentation in the 2017 TCAFS Proceedings (abstract-only or manuscript), and indicate whether the presenter is a **STUDENT** or **PROFESSIONAL**. To be considered a student presenter, you must be enrolled at the time the abstract is submitted. **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTERS ... please indicate your willingness to judge student presentations.**

Oral presentations should be prepared as a 15-minute presentation (with 5-minutes for open discussion) using MS PowerPoint®. Poster presentations should be formatted to include a title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion/conclusion, and literature cited. Posters must not exceed 48" in any dimension.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS IS 01 DECEMBER 2016.

Please submit your presentation abstract **ELECTRONICALLY** (preferably in MS Word®) to:
Dan.Daugherty@tpwd.texas.gov

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!



Texas Chapter AFS Annual Business Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2016

EXCOM Conference Call

by Michael Homer, Secretary Treasurer

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:02PM by Dave Buzan.

Members Present: Dave Buzan, Michael Homer, Randy Rushin, Kevin Storey, Dan Bennett, Jessica East, Lynn Wright, Debbie Wade, Allison Pease, Danny Lewis, Greg Binion, Amanda Gordon, Dave Terre, John Taylor, Michele Nations, Stephanie George

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Michael Homer Jr.

President's Report: (Dave Buzan): EXCOM has been working to identify individuals to work on Publicity/Exhibits Committee and has identified a few individuals to help. Another conference call will be scheduled to kick off this committee. Dave Buzan requested any additional suggestions for other individuals to assist with this committee. Stephen Curtis was suggested, but he has expressed not wanting to be a chair person. Greg Conley was also recommended.

Members have previously had good ideas to get raffle items and raise money for chapter. Dave requested ideas for raffles. Amanda Gordon notified the EXCOM that Sharpshooter has offered a year membership for the 2017 auction. Amanda also notified that Michael Crevier (TPWD State Parks) may be able to get a weekend or a year state parks pass for the 2017 auction. Randy had suggested that a partnership with Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) would be a good partner. Shane Bonnett previously worked at Sea Center, and he now works with CCA, and Michele Nations will work to get Shane's contact information to Randy Rushin. Randy plans to follow-up with Shane about a contribution to the 2017 annual meeting. Dave Terre questioned what kind of items would the EXCOM want for the raffle and would do well. Dave Terre mentioned that TPWD Inland Fisheries staff members could be reaching out to local guides for trip donations and Coastal Fisheries Division staff could be doing the same. Dave Terre suggested that we should be targeting set of donors that typically donate popular items as well as large vendors like Cabelas, Bass Pro, Academy, Walmart, etc. Michele Nations said she will reach out to Cabelas for a donation. Michele notified the EXCOM that Cabelas takes donation requests online and that they do not accept requests within 90 days of the event. Dave Terre stated that the Publicity/Exhibits Committee meet soon to have a firm plan in place to identify items that should be in the auctions and potential donors to target. Dave Terre said he will donate a catered barbeque meal. Randy Rushin is also working on a half-day hunting trip in Commerce, TX.

Debbie Wade suggested using an online auction through Facebook as another means to earn money for the chapter which she was involved in another similar auction that had generated \$10,000. Debbie had mentioned that all 60 auction items were donated and handmade. Specifically, knives, china, and paintings were donated. The auction lasted for two weeks and was very successful.

Dave Buzan mentioned that individuals that will be helping with the Publicity/Exhibits Committee will be Stephanie George, Amanda Gordon, Natalie Goldstrohm, Jessica East, Stephen Curtis, and Michael Homer. Michele Nations offered to help as well. Dave will be contacting those who expressed interest in the Publicity/Exhibits committee as well as Michele Nations and Greg Conley via a Doodle poll to set up a meeting before the end of September.

President-Elect - (Randy Rushin): Randy expressed thanks for everyone's involvement in the chapter and with the 2017 annual meeting planning efforts. Randy has sent emails and letters to AFS state chapter officers and to AFS parent society officers to invite them to the 2017 annual meeting. He has received many positive responses. Randy has also contacted Dr. Ben Walther at TX A&M University – Corpus Christi, and he has just

finished his role with the Marine Fisheries Society at the parent society, and he wishes to attend the 2017 annual meeting and bring students. Randy had called Lance Robinson to encourage TPWD Coastal Fisheries employees to participate in TCAFS. Lance informed Randy that TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division had a meeting, Lance made a speaking point to encourage people to attend. Randy has also spoken with many professors at TX A&M Corpus Christi, which many have indicated plans to have students attend and present as well as apply for scholarships.

Randy mentioned he is working on having three speakers at the 2017 annual meeting. Randy mentioned that the overall themes of the discussions will discuss striking a balance with water resources use and fisheries conservation. Randy recalled a presentation at a conference in 1999 following the signing of Senate Bill 1. The presentation was given by Dr. Larry McKinney and Cindy Loeffler, and they discussed how TPWD was approaching the implementation of Senate Bill 1. Twenty years have passed, and many aspects of fisheries and water conservation have changed, and Randy wanted to revisit these topics. Randy has spoken with Cindy Loeffler, and she has agreed to be a speaker. Cindy's talk will discuss where Texas' state over water conservation and fisheries were 20 years ago and where it is today. Randy mentioned that he is working with someone at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and having this individual discuss interstate use of water, and to discuss their issues with water resources that are shared with Texas. Glenn Clingenpeel, a division director at Trinity River Authority, and he is another potential speaker. Randy mentioned that Glenn is responsible for allocating water resources in DFW to coastal Texas within the Trinity River Basin. Randy expressed that Glenn has a wide array of water conservation topics to cover Randy has two other people in mind to discuss agency water allocations. One individual is involved at Texas Water Development Board and the other used to be a director at TWDB. Randy feels that the theme and speaker sessions will draw members of Texas River and Reservoir Management Society, a subchapter of the North American Lake Management Society, to attend the meeting and increase membership.

Randy requested assistance with developing some continuing education sessions pertaining to coastal fisheries. Lynn Wright has one continuing education session lined up with Dr. Ben Walther. Randy will visit with Lynn to discuss continuing education.

Randy did mention that he stayed at the hotel on 9/13, he met with the hotel staff, and he was pleased with the meals and the quality of the accommodations. Randy said the main dish at the banquet will likely be a plated chicken dish. The meeting is scheduled for January 19-21, 2017. The hotel will be offering the discounted rate for Wednesday and Saturday night for those who come a day early/leave a day late, and the hotel also plans to waive the parking fees. Randy has also been working on the plans for the socials as well. Randy also informed the EXCOM has a hospitality suite on the 3rd floor, and the hotel will be putting additional seating for the socials at the indoor and outdoor pools. Randy is working on potential sponsors for the socials.

Randy will soon be visiting with Dan Daugherty about developing the program. Dave Buzan reminded the EXCOM that we had voted on removing the Plenary Session to accommodate more presentations.

Status on TCAFS hosting 2019 SDAFS meeting: Dave Buzan informed the EXCOM that we have been approved by Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) to host to 2019 meeting. TCAFS will be hosting in 2019. Dave mention Dan Daugherty (not present) had sent a document to the EXCOM detailing a proposed plan for the meeting. Dave said that Dan would like comments or suggestions for this document that will serve as an outline for the document that will be used for soliciting bids from venues interested in hosting our meeting in either Austin or San Antonio. Dave said that Dan's team will be working on filling planning committee positions. Dave Buzan stated that the first-choice location for the 2019 meeting is Austin, TX, and San Antonio would be the second-choice. Proposed dates for the meeting are 2/21-2/24/2019; 2/7-2/10/2019; and 1/24-1/27/2019. Request for proposals will state we are planning for 500-800 attendance. Dave Buzan mentioned that Dan Daugherty's document displays information about room blocks and quantities needed, room needs and their uses, and needs for refreshments. Dave Terre reviewed the initial document sent to the EXCOM and offered feedback to Dan Daugherty. Dave Terre stated whoever bids on the meeting will need to be flexible for room needs, needs for meeting spaces, etc. Multiple EXCOM members expressed concern about the size of the room block and availability of rooms at the reduced rates. Dave Terre requested

that the planning committee ask what the maximum number of rooms at reduced rate will be, and he further stated that these rooms go very quickly and the lack of rooms may be a factor influencing members attending. Dave Terre also suggested to Dan that he begin contacting other AFS members who have experience planning these meetings. Dave Terre also suggested that he try to reach out to the hotels to see if we are capped at the proposed room block sizes because they may run out quickly. Dave Buzan expressed the chapter owes gratitude to Dan Daugherty for his efforts. Dave Buzan further mentioned that the demand on chapter involvement to plan this meeting will be great, and that membership will need to help more to ensure success. Dave Buzan also requested that EXCOM members take a look at the document again and provide feedback.

Dave Buzan received requests for financial support from the Oklahoma and Puerto Rico AFS chapters for the 2017 and 2018 SDAFS meetings. Michele Nations asked if TCAFS had provided donations to previous SDAFS meetings. Dave Buzan stated that TCAFS received a request in 2012 from the Arkansas Chapter for the SDAFS meeting, but instead of the monetary donation, TCAFS provided up to \$500 for a student to attend and present at an upcoming AFS meeting. Michele Nations asked if this award was our standard procedure, which Dave Buzan clarified that it is currently for the *Outstanding Student Presenter*. Michael Homer stated that TCAFS made a contribution to the AFS Management Section for \$500 for a symposium being held at the Kansas City, MO annual meeting that was held in August 2016. Michele asked if there was a standard amount that the chapter wanted to donate to Oklahoma and Puerto Rico. Dave stated that the EXCOM has the authority to decide to make a donation up to \$500.00 and not to exceed \$1000; this is mentioned in the TCAFS bylaws. Michael Homer stated that the original request from Puerto Rico Chapter was for a total of \$1000.00, which was divided into \$500 payments in 2016 and 2017. Dave Buzan suggested that we donate \$500 to both Oklahoma Chapter and Puerto Rico Chapter for the SDAFS meetings. Michele Nations expressed support. Dave Terre stated he felt the amounts were excessive. Dave Terre also asked if TCAFS will be requesting donations from other state chapters for the 2019 SDAFS meeting. Michael Homer stated that while support for other chapters is necessary, TCAFS must be mindful of the chapter's efforts to support other causes and the upcoming annual meetings. Michael expressed concerns about TCAFS expenses and contributions, and he reminded everyone that contributions of \$500 were made in 2016 to both Coastal Brigades and Bass Brigades in addition to the \$500 AFS Management Section contribution. Dave Terre stated that he is sympathetic to the Oklahoma Chapter given the close relationship that TCAFS and TPWD has with them. Dave Terre also said he is concerned that the donations are setting a precedent. John Taylor disagreed and mentioned that TCAFS is much more established, and Puerto Rico is a relatively new, small chapter that is trying to grow and could use the help. Michele Nations agreed with John Taylor's point. John Taylor expressed support for being mindful of our chapter's expenses, but he reiterated that we are in a much better financial state than these other chapters, particularly Puerto Rico. Dave Terre asked again if we would expect others to contribute to our planning efforts for future meetings. Michele asked if we have been asked by other chapters other than Arkansas for support. Dave Terre stated that TPWD will unlikely be able to send employees to Puerto Rico for the 2018 meeting and that many are expected to attend the 2017 meeting in Oklahoma. Dave stated that for the prior SDAFS meeting hosted by TCAFS, state chapters' support was not pursued, but we did solicit support from federal agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service as well as private sector contributors. Michele Nations stated that she believes the \$500 requests from Oklahoma and Puerto Rico chapters are reasonable. She further stated that the EXCOM should consider the 2017 contribution to Puerto Rico later. Dave Terre stated he feels that the Oklahoma and Puerto Rico chapters should solicit support from other entities and that TCAFS funds should be used to support students and benefit the membership. Dave Buzan requested any additional thoughts. Dave Buzan stated that he did not want to make a decision and that Dan Daugherty be present to the discussion for his planning efforts for 2019 SDAFS. Dave Buzan would like TCAFS' approach to be similar to the decisions we make regarding the support of the other chapters' requests. John Taylor suggested that TCAFS get clarification from SDAFS, particularly Craig Bonds, on the financial position of both chapters and why they are soliciting support. John Taylor agreed that he feels the request from Oklahoma may be more excessive than what is being requested from Puerto Rico given the history of both chapters and that Puerto Rico's travel costs will be very high. Dave Terre asked the EXCOM to weigh and measure the hard work of the chapter and if the support provided from any donation will provide benefit to TCAFS. John Taylor agreed. Dave Terre and John Taylor also recommended that the EXCOM review previous

financial records to determine our previous contributions to other chapters. Dave Buzan said he will speak with Craig Bonds. Dave Buzan asked Michael Homer to look into TCAFS' contribution history. John Taylor asked that the EXCOM table to the discussion before a decision was made by the EXCOM. Dave Buzan agreed to table the discussion and reiterated that he would follow-up with Craig Bonds and Dan Daugherty.

Review and Revision of Chapter Bylaws: Dave Buzan stated that the *TCAFS Procedures Manual* was updated in 2012. Dave Buzan stated Craig Bonds led the effort, and he recommended that each committee chair review their respective sections to update the bylaws. Dave Buzan asked if there was any need for discussion. Kevin Storey further clarified that Dave Buzan was suggesting that the chapter consider reviewing the procedures and providing necessary revisions. Dave Buzan reiterated that we have nearly four months before the annual meeting and that we have proposed changes by the annual meeting. Michele Nations asked how changes will be need to be submitted, and she expressed that she would like to revise the procedures for judges for presentations. Dave Buzan proposed that each committee chair will be provided a copy of their corresponding sections in a Microsoft Word document, and changes will be made in Track Changes and submitted to the EXCOM and compiled and sent out for comment before the annual meeting. Dave Buzan will draft a schedule and document the process of project completion to distribute to the committee chairs. Committee chairs expressed support to complete this task.

SDAFS Officer Update: (Craig Bonds): Not present; no report

Secretary-Treasurer (Michael Homer): Michael reported that, to date, the TCAFS checking account balance was \$12,022.22. Since the last EXCOM meeting in March, \$5,500 was transferred to the endowment account. Earlier this past spring, \$500 contributions were made to both 2016 Bass Brigades and 2016 Coastal Brigades. A \$2,000 deposit was made to Holiday Inn – Downtown Marina in May to reserve the 2017 meeting space. A total of \$505 was paid to parent society AFS for plaques and a certificate reprint. Only \$79 in 2016 membership dues and \$228 rebate check from the parent society have been deposited into the checking account. Michael Homer clarified to Dave Buzan that the chapter tries to maintain a balance of \$12,000 in the checking account, and any excess funds are transferred into the TCAFS endowment account. Michael reported that the 2015 tax return has been completed and that he is waiting for the invoice from the accountants. He expects that there will be close to \$10,000 in the checking account after this debt is paid as well as the chapter's 2017 liability insurance renewal. Michele Nations informed the EXCOM that the plaque expense was a mistake and that over 20 plaques were sent with each certificate.

Awards (Michele Nations): Michele Nations notified the EXCOM that she has received 20 plaques in boxes, and that is why our AFS invoice for plaques were so high. Jasmine Sewell was apparently out of the office, and someone who typically does not deal with our chapter was unfamiliar of our needs and mistakenly sent too many plaques. Michele said the invoice for the upcoming meeting will not be so high. Michele thanked everyone on the call who assisted with judging at the last meeting.

History (Michele Nations): Michele is still working on the 40-year history document, and she wishes to present a poster highlighting it. She would be interested in providing a talk, but after hearing Randy's speaker plans, she has changed her mind to accommodate other's presentation time.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright): Lynn stated has contacted Dr. Ben Walther at TAMU-Corpus Christi, and he is planning on doing a continuing education session on otolith microchemistry. Dr. Walther also forwarded Lynn's request for continuing education topics to other coastal professors. He has requested a two-hour block for this session. Lynn requested other ideas for another person to run a continuing education session.

Amanda Gordon suggested Dr. Martin Lutnesky at UT-San Antonio, who is a new faculty member who specializes in fisheries. Dave Buzan suggested that Lynn contact Lance Robinson. Greg Binion suggested contacting Perry Trial. Debbie Wade suggested providing a continuing education session that is applicable to students pertaining to careers in fisheries. Dave Buzan suggested having a panel of professional members to conduct a professional development workshop.

Editorial (Allison Pease and Dan Daugherty [Not Present]): Allison reported that Dan will be responsible for the meeting program. Allison said that she has not completed the Proceedings from the 2016 meeting, but she is working on them.

Endowment (Dave Terre): Dave Buzan gave the report for Dave Terre. We have received \$17,500 from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation that will fund four, \$1,500 scholarships; the remaining funds will be transferred to the endowment account. The endowment account balance is \$261,082.54. Dave is working on getting a commitment from the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth for two additional scholarships. Dave Terre is also going to be sending in an article highlighting the Michael Gonzales Internship with San Antonio River Authority.

Internet (Danny Lewis and John Taylor): Danny has updated the last newsletter to the TCAFS website. John has been trying to migrate the TCAFS to the SDAFS server, and he is awaiting a response from the division. Randy Rushin has expressed that he desires that the chapter move away from paper products at the annual meeting. Randy further requested that TCAFS look into an app for mobile devices for a meeting program to reduce use of paper and use more modern technology. John and Danny believe the chapter may have this ability and will be looking into it more. John believes this will reduce the number of paper copies of the meeting program. Stephanie George mentioned that the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society developed an app for their annual meeting program and that it worked well. John Taylor mentioned that he has experienced developing applications like this that have had to be contracted out to develop at a cost. John Taylor suggested that Chris Cummings (TPWD) may be able to assist developing an application for mobile devices. John Taylor also confirmed that the TCAFS website is mobile friendly and that he could develop a webpage program that can be accessed from a mobile device. Danny also suggested that we develop a PDF that could be uploaded to the TCAFS website so members can print off copies of the program at their leisure. Danny also mentioned that too many people on the hotel's wireless system may reduce the internet quality during the conference. Dave Buzan asked if Danny and John could have an idea of how to complete this task by the end of October. John Taylor sent an example link to a PDF posting of a program to members of the EXCOM and said this would be a very easy option for providing an electronic program to meeting attendance. Dave Buzan stated that should an electronic form be made and that if the chapter decides to reduce the number of printed copies, that the chapter make a good effort to communicate that members should print their own copies of the meeting program.

Membership (Debbie Wade): Debbie reported that she has sent two notifications of expired memberships to lapsed members. Debbie has also been contacted by some individuals that have relocated to Texas, and she has provided them with information how to join the chapter.

Newsletter (Kevin Storey): Kevin has set a deadline for September 30, 2016 for the next newsletter. Kevin apologized for the not having a newsletter sooner, and he further mentioned that he plans to have another newsletter in December. He requested additional information for the next annual meeting to include in the newsletter.

Nominating (Dan Bennett): Dan has been seeking candidates for Secretary-Treasurer and President-Elect. Dan is requesting nominations for these positions. Dan Bennett has mentioned some potential candidates have mentioned their reluctance to accepting nominations for these position due to the planning commitments for the 2019 SDAFS annual meeting. Dave Buzan suggested that he talk to Dan Daugherty for potential candidates for this position. Dave Buzan expressed that Dan Bennett mention to potential candidates will have a strong team in place that will be sharing the responsibility of the 2019 SDAFS meeting planning.

Pond Management (Greg Binion): Greg stated he has recruited members to the committee; a total of seven are now involved. The next step will be to look at the TCAFS pond management manual to take a look at the various chapters to make revisions as needed. Greg will soon be setting up a meeting to begin these efforts.

Scholarships (Mike Morgan): Not present; no report

Issues (Niki Ragan and Mark Webb): Not present; no report

Student Outreach (Joe Beach): Not present; no report

Student Subunit Updates (Aaron Urbanczyk [TTU] and Kenneth Zachary [TAMU]): Not Present; no report

Old business: No old business.

Adjourn: John Taylor made the motion to adjourn; Debbie Wade provided the second motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:00PM.

Go forth and exercise . . .

By Michele Nations, Awards Committee Chair



Say what? "Go forth and exercise"? Isn't this article supposed to be about awards?

There are different ways of exercising! We mostly think of exercising as pertaining to muscles, calisthenics, running, etc. But there is another form of exercising that I want you to think about. It is the ability to exercise your right to be a part of the nominating, selection, judging, and voting for the men and women who have done outstanding jobs in fisheries or have put together their research into presentations or posters.

First of all is the nominating portion for the different fisheries categories, which are the following. The TCAFS website is a good source of information: <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tc-awards/>

- Administration
- Education
- Management
- Research
- Student
- Technical Support
- Special Recognition

The person doing the nominating and the person being nominated must both be members of the TCAFS in good standing. The awards are based on fisheries-related work in Texas and can span more than one year. Each category has its own eligible accomplishments (i.e., for fish culture - development of techniques that produced fish more efficiently, or more economically, which is only one of the possible six choices)



Michele with Dr. Tim Grabowski as he accepts the Outstanding Fisheries Worker in Research award, 2016.

Once the nominations are turned into me, I'll send them all out to the people who have agreed to be judges. (If you would like to be on that part of the committee, please let me know.) They will select and vote on the candidates that meet the criteria for the award, and, if there are multiple candidates, which nominee will be the winner. That can be a very tough job when the candidates are all highly qualified!).

Look around you for those people who have inspired you by their efforts, who have gone the extra mile many times over, who have encouraged you to do your best, and who deserve to be honored by our Chapter

The deadline for submitting nominations for the awards to be handed out during the January 2017 annual chapter meeting is **December 1st**.

And then there's the hard work (AKA Exercise. . . ?) involved in preparing for the second set of awards for the Best Professional and Student Awards for presentations and posters. Time, effort, skill, preparation, and teamwork are required for these – on both sides of the awards – presenting and judging. The people who prepare the presentations and posters are one side of the story, which everyone can see on the podium or by their posters.

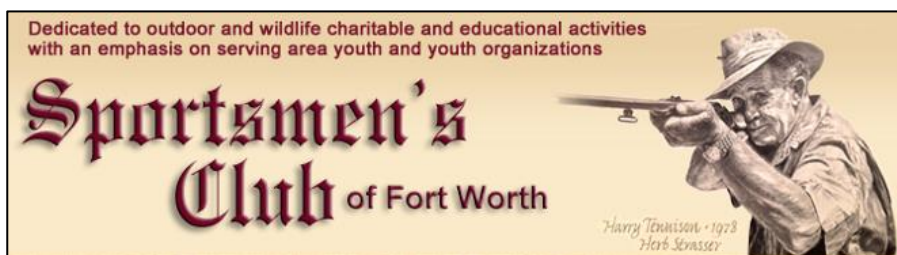
But there is a lot of preparation and planning going on behind the scenes, too. I'll be preparing the list of presentations and posters, noting the topic of the each presentation and poster, the affiliation of the presenter, time of presentation, and professional or student. Don't you just love details! Next comes scheduling the judges! Who are the people available to be judges? Professionals can be, not students. What is their affiliation? I can't have someone judging their own student or colleague! What is their background? Are they inland or coastal? Are they available which day, in the morning, afternoon? How many presentations do they have time to judge? These are, to me, the unsung heroes! They get plenty of . . . of well, exercise while determining the winners!



Matt Chumchal (right) explains his award winning poster "Disparity of pond permanence on aquatic insect-mediated flux of methylmercury to terrestrial ecosystems" at the 2016 meeting.

If you have been one of the judges or would like to become one, for either the outstanding fisheries workers or presentations/posters, contact me, and I'll get you signed up!

Michele Nations
Michele.nations@tpwd.texas.gov,
940-779-2301 (office),
940-445-2105 (cell # for calls or texting)



The Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth (SCFW) (<http://www.sportsmensclub.org/>) has funded two student scholarships each year in honor of Harry Tennison, one of the club's founding members. They have donated a total of 12 scholarships, each valued at \$1,500, from 2011 through 2016. Beginning in 2017, at the Corpus Christi Annual Meeting, they will support two additional scholarships.

TCAFS owes a debt of gratitude to member Ray Drenner who provided the original contact information back in 2009 that enabled us to build this fruitful relationship with SCFW in support of Texas fisheries students.

Importance of Committees and Officers

By Michele Nations

Did you notice what our President and President-Elect said in the February 2016 newsletter?

Dave Buzan commented in the President's Message:

"Plenty to do, lots to learn, much to enjoy. Grow your role in our chapter family, it is where we will lay the foundation for much of what is accomplished in the next 40 years."



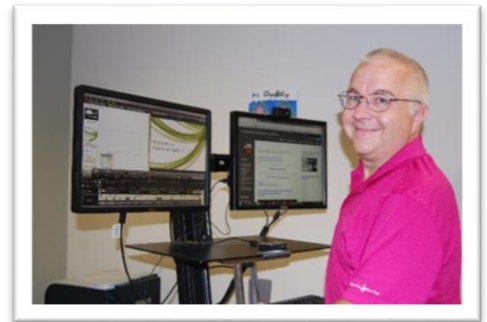
And then Randy Rushin commented as President-Elect:

"Our chapter has a unique culture that supports the growth and development of our student members as well as professional. We are dedicated to helping the next generation be successful contributors to the field of fisheries science. Our chapter is a forward-looking organization that is always looking for ways to improve meetings, presentations, collaboration and fisheries science."

They are on the same page!

We only have two TCAFS annual meetings before the big 2019 SDAFS meeting! That means we need to start pulling our committees together. It's never too early to start planning, and that meeting will take a lot of work! During the next couple of years, think about how you could help during the intervening meetings. Like the one in January! Corpus Christi is going to be beautiful, and it should be a fantastic meeting! (Have you made your reservations?)

Are you a geek? Oops! I meant to say "smart, computer person"! The internet/audio visual team will need a bunch of people to handle all of the presentations at the January meeting and definitely at the 2019 one. Did anyone tell you that this will be Danny Lewis' last TCAFS meeting to handle things like this?!?! Ouch! He makes things look so easy, but trust me, it takes a lot to accomplish what he does.



Hey, are you good with a camera? Photographers are always needed to catch the memories of our meetings for the awards and history sections and the TCAFS Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/TCAFS/>). This is true for every meeting but especially the SDAFS one. It's nice to practice on things like this, so we can be ready for the BIG one.



Are you one of the out-going types that enjoys talking to people? You can help lost people find their way. Asking for donations? There is always a need to have people on the publicity and exhibits committee. How about helping during the auctions? You may not even have to say a word but help by pulling the winning card out of the can. We always have a great turnout for that!

Being a part of a committee allows you to see the inner workings of the larger Executive Committee, in which all of the other committees participate, and it prepares you for the next step.

Here's the million-dollar question: Would you be willing to throw your hat into the ring and become an officer?

A president-elect which then becomes the president, or secretary-treasurer?



**First Call for Papers
Southern Division Annual Meeting
Cox Convention Center, Oklahoma City
February 2-5, 2017**

The Oklahoma Chapter invites you to submit abstracts for 20-minute oral and 4'x4' poster presentations. Abstract submission is online through the Conference Exchange available through this link:

<https://afs.confex.com/afs/sd17/cfp.cgi>

also available on the meeting website:

<http://sd.fisheries.org/2017-oklahoma-city-meeting/>

Abstracts should be less than 250 words and presenters will be able to select if they are part of a planned symposium or if students want to be considered for inclusion in the Best Student Presentation Symposium.

Abstracts will be accepted through November 18, 2016. Additionally, the deadline for symposia has been extended to October 15 so please visit the meeting website if you want yours to be considered.





Hello Mr. David Terre,

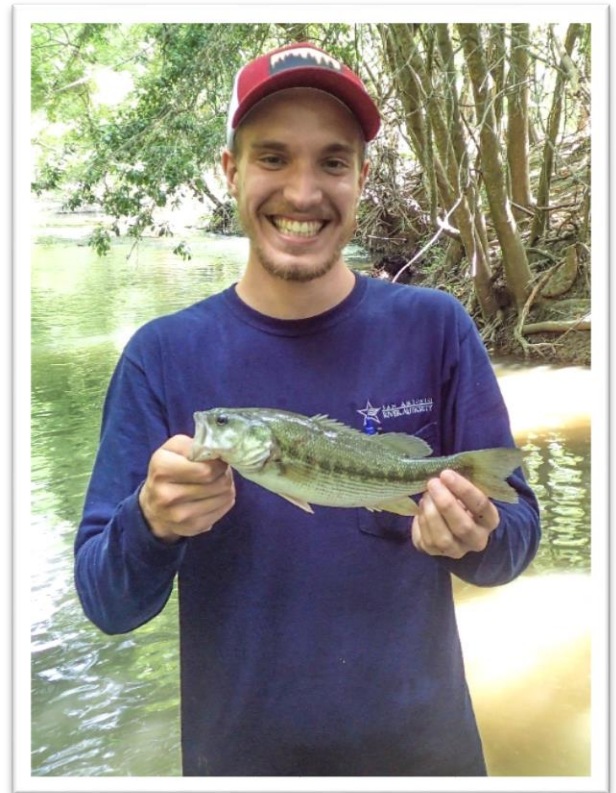
My time as the Michael Gonzales Memorial Intern with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) has been an invaluable experience that will give me the competitive edge and technical knowledge I need to succeed in the environmental field of work. The aquatic biologists and water quality scientists that I have had the pleasure of working alongside have helped me gain skills and expertise that will help me further myself not only as a student and a working professional, but as an educated and inspired citizen as well. I have been able to gain experience working in the field conducting biological surveys, habitat quality assessments, mussel surveys, collecting water quality samples, and taking flow measurements. I have also been able to spend some time in the environmental laboratory learning the different procedures and techniques for analyzing water quality samples. I have also been exposed to other environmental/governmental agencies like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District (BCRAGD) during my time here at the SARA, helping me network and “get my name out there”.

The many trainings that SARA offers has given me additional expertise using software’s such as MATLAB and ArcGIS Online, as well as exposure to work being done in other departments and by other professionals I have not had the chance to work with. Holistically this experience has given me a deeper understanding and appreciation for the amount of work it takes to manage a river basin like the San Antonio River, and will be an internship that I will remember when I am graduated and no longer a student. It is incredible seeing all that the SARA does for the community and for the ecology of the San Antonio River Basin, and I am grateful to have been chosen for this position. I’d like to thank the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for partnering with SARA for this position, and all the incredible people working at SARA for giving me this opportunity.

Thanks,

Christopher Adkison

Michael Gonzales Memorial Intern, San Antonio River Authority



TCAFS Charter Member Retires from TPWD

By Michele Nations

As historian I have been trying to keep track of all the happenings within the Texas Chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie throughout the years and hope to continue for many years to come. I have been watching people retire this year, people like Aaron Barkoh, Dale Lyon, John Moczygemba, and John Dennis. John Moczygemba stands out from among the rest for his participation in the formation of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He was there on the Texas A & M College Station campus, November, 1975, where more than 100 fisheries workers from across the state met to form the new statewide chapter.



November 1975, the formation of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on the Texas A & M College Station Campus. First Row (L-R): Shari Rische, Wade Butler, Allen Forshage, Charles Mulford, Ken Sellers, Ed Lyles, Steve Smith, and Roy Bamburg. **Second Row:** Dwane Smith, Paul Crandall, Bob Zerr, Nick Carter, Jimmy Dean, Buck Henderson, Leo Lewis, Lou Guerra, and Joe Toole. **Third Row:** Bill Rutledge, Charlie Menn, Ronnie Stapleton, Bill Brown (USFWS), Charles Leigon, Charlie Inman, and Mike Ryan. **Fourth Row:** Paul Seidensticker, David Pritchard, Billy Follis, Barry Lyons, Roger McCabe, Dr. John Garcia, (Texas Tech. University), Dick Luebke, Gary Mooney, Alan Wenger, Rhandy Helton, and James Lasswell. **Fifth Row:** Ernest Marsh, Joe Kraai, Bill Bailey, John Prentice, Clell Guest, Jeff Morris, Rick Clark, Phil Durocher, Royce Dewey, and Jack Crabtree. **Sixth Row:** Elgin Diets, John Moczygemba, Bob Bounds, Kirby Gholson, Ed Bonn, and Bill Provine.

He was involved in fisheries management years before that date. After graduating from Texas A&M University in May 1969, John began working for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a summer intern for Bob Kemp at the Inland Fisheries District Office in San Antonio studying the life history of flathead catfish in the Medina and Rio Grande Rivers. After a tour in the Army, John returned to TPWD in November, 1971, and was stationed at the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station under Ed Bonn and later Bruce Hysmith where he has been ever since. The biggest project was striped bass introduction into Texas from 1971 to 1976. John was involved



L-R: Ronnie Ballard, John Moczygamba, and Ron Miller. Preparing tire bundles to enhance fishery habitat in Lake Texoma, February, 1977. ED BONN

with brood stock procurement and spawning operations at Lakes Spence and Toledo Bend, hatchery rearing of striped bass fingerlings at the Lewisville Hatchery, stocking fingerling striped bass, and evaluation of those introductions in the early days of the project. Some other projects John enjoyed were experimental stocking of walleye into Lake Cypress Springs (1971-1975), impacts of increased hybrid striped bass stocking (1987-1991), hooking mortality of striped bass in Lake Texoma (1989-1992), and evaluation of reduced striped bass bag limit in Lake Texoma (1987-1994), evaluation of guided and unguided anglers from Lakes Texoma and Fork (1997-2000), and the impacts of tournament mortality on a Texas Largemouth Bass fishery (2006-2010). A catch-card survey of anglers at Lake Mineral Wells was the most recent.

In the past five years, he saw the fruition of their fisheries management efforts on many north central Texas lakes, with the establishment of Florida bass in most of his district's lakes, which have all produced lake record largemouth bass. However, recent years have also brought challenges to their efforts to enhance fisheries in spite of problems with zebra mussels, golden alga, blue-green algae blooms, drought, and competition for water.



L-R, Michele Nations, Awards Committee chair; John Moczygamba, Outstanding Fisheries Worker in Management award winner; and Kevin Storey, TCAFS President. Do you see the look he gave me?! It's because he recognized his introduction. It was his biographical information that I had requested for the history section. Just a tad bit sneaky, huh?! I'm glad he's such a good sport!

As I am preparing the history of the Chapter for the 40-year anniversary, I noticed that John was the chair of the nominating committee, which is in charge of recruiting candidates and submitting their names to the Chapter for the selection of the President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer, from 1998 to 2006 and also helped support other committees throughout his years with the TCAFS. He received a Special Recognition award in 2000 for his special services to the TCAFS and Fisheries Management. He was recognized again in 2008 and 2016 when he received the Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award for Management.

John's retirement party was held September 19, 2016 in Whitesboro. Over 60 people were

there to honor John for his 44 years and 10 months of service to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Several people got up to share stories about working with John. Ronnie Ballard, Craig Bonds, and Brian Van Zee spoke first. Unfortunately, I didn't start videoing the speeches until Ken Kurzawski got up to speak, so I couldn't capture what they said. However, here are some brief comments from the group:

Ken Kurzawski, TPWD: He expressed his appreciation to John for all of the good times they had throughout the years and about how much fun they had out on lakes like Ray Roberts and how John is a great striped bass guide. He's going to miss John around TPWD. He also mentioned something about that he and John were Polish royalty?



Dave Terre, TPWD: Dave shared the last 31 years with John and had many good times. To John, Dave said that “you are a heck of a good striper guide” and “the anglers of Texas owe you a great debt of gratitude for everything you’ve done for Lake Texoma and to make fishing better in this state. Thank you for your friendship.”

Matt Mauk, regional fisheries manager in Durant, OK: Working with John, his “friend across the border,” and the rest of the staff has been “a great example of cooperative lake management that exists here.” The two groups would trade-off who would host an annual meeting after performing joint gill netting and to exchange data. Matt said, “John would fire off an email about driving the back roads looking for something to fry up for us.”



Bruce Hysmith, retired TPWD: Bruce commented on an Inland Fisheries staff meeting in Brownwood where he and John produced dueling presentations which were shown simultaneously on two screens. Roger McCabe couldn't believe they were doing it! Bruce said he thought he got the idea from Saturday Night Live. “It was so unlike John to do something like that, but not unlike me ‘cause I’ve done crazy things like that before. But John, no.”

“Then there was the Lake Ray Roberts Sportsmen Association; Jim McElroy was part Cajun, so he served up gumbo and fried fish. That group provided creel surveys for us for 2 years and collected good data using their own boats and fuel.”

John Mitchell, retired TPWD: To John: “You are an enduring spirit. You have my admiration for hanging around this long . . . You are amazing! You’ve been like an ambassador for Parks & Wildlife, especially Inland Fisheries. You’ve gone out of your way to establish these relationships, good working relationships. And this is really important, folks! You’ve applied yourself to that. My hat’s off to you. You have done very well for this agency, and I know they’re going to miss you.” John Mitchell drove 5 hours to get to the party, and he said that he would have driven another 5 if he had to have done that. His last comment was that he “was proud of every mile we drove together!”



Warren Schlechte, TPWD: He was there for the infamous Brownwood presentation where Bruce and John performed the dueling presentations. Not too long after that, Dick Luebke told him that John and Bruce wanted him to work with them on a creel program dealing with striped bass in Lake Texoma.

Warren said, "I wasn't sure that's what I wanted to do after seeing their presentation. I was a little bit taken aback by it. . . I entered that relationship

with a little trepidation!" He found out through working with the pair that the presentations "didn't show the full picture of their dedication to the profession. They were really dedicated to the striped bass fisheries in Lake Texoma." He also said, "Sometimes John lives in Bruce's shadow and sometimes that shadow is pretty big, but the truth of the matter is I really respect John for his knowledge of the Texoma fishery and that John is sincere in his work ethic and what he has done throughout the years. Congratulations on your retirement, and I think you're a good guy!"



Warren was followed by Roger McCabe (retired TPWD), Todd Robinson (TPWD), and Dan Bennett (TPWD). The photos that also appear in this newsletter show the affection that we all have for John, and it was one of those times that we were happy to see him move into retirement but sad because we knew of the hole that he will leave in our lives when he's gone.

Happy trails, John! May you be blessed as you have blessed us!

Fish Bite Swimmers in the Frio River

Article provided by Tim Bonner and John Dennis

(The TCAFS can really get the word out to the world when we use social media. In August, Tim Bonner sent me an item with photos to share on the TCAFS Facebook page. A total of 412,005 people were reached, and it had 2,588 shares! In case you missed it, here it is. – Michele Nations)

On July 7, 2016, several swimmers were wading in thigh-deep water of the Frio River near Concan, Texas. One of the swimmers felt a bite just above the ankle. Pulling their ankle out of the water to see what was wrong, the swimmer felt a bite on the other ankle. Four adults received bites over the next several days in the same general area. While painful and producing blood, the bites were superficial (see attached photos).

One swimmer saw the source of bites: "very aggressive type fish...black on the end half and whitish on the front half".

The swimmers reported the incident to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries, District 1D (San Antonio) biologists Randy Myers, John Dennis, technician Jason Driscoll, San Antonio Livestock Exposition Intern Jenn Shaffer, and American Fisheries Society-Hutton Scholar Isabel Lara. Along with Tim Bonner at Texas State University, the biologists suspected that the bites came from Rio Grande Cichlids (*Herichthys cyanoguttatus*). Rio Grande Cichlids (known as Texas Cichlids in the aquarium trade) are native to the adjacent Rio Grande drainage but introduced many years ago into the Frio River, several other Texas drainages, and drainages in Louisiana and Florida. Rio Grande Cichlids reproduce during the summer and have breeding colors of "black on the end half and whitish on the front half".

Rio Grande Cichlids exhibit aggressive territorial behaviors during and after reproductive season. In a 2009 Journal of Ethology publication, Rio Grande Cichlids display a series of aggressive behaviors in attempt to

defend their nest and territory. Rio Grande Cichlids will lunge at an intruder, followed by lateral displays, and eventually chasing and biting, if the intruder doesn't retreat.

Reports of biting fish, other than soft nibbles on human skin and hair, are uncommon in freshwaters of Texas. For anglers, swimmers, and river enthusiasts, keep a look out and avoid fish nests. Avoiding and not disturbing nests will improve reproductive success of several Texas fishes, including many sport fishes, and minimizes an angler or swimmer's chances of being bitten. Fish nests, also called redds, are often easy to see in the water. Nests are shallow, clean-swept depressions in soft sediments and in gravel. Nests are oval-shaped, about 1 to 2' in diameter, and usually have one or two adult fish sitting in the middle.



Bite marks above ankle and on a shin of a swimmer in the Frio River, July 7, 2016.



Rio Grande Cichlid (*Herichthys cyanoguttatus*). During breeding season, the front half becomes whiter, and the back half becomes blacker.



2017 Texas Chapter of the American
Fisheries Society Meeting
Holiday Inn – Downtown Marina
Corpus Christi, Texas – January 19-21, 2017



Registration Form

Registration now includes annual chapter dues but receipts will show itemized charges separately. (Professional or Student) and access to all technical sessions, the continuing education workshop, Student/Professional Friday Lunch, and Friday night banquet. **The deadline for early registration is December 31, 2016!!!! Please print legibly, especially e-mail addresses!**

Name	Date	
Street Address		
City, State, Zip Code	Organization	
Phone	Email Address	
.MEETING REGISTRATION:	<i>Cost/Person</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
Regular Member Registration – Received by 12-31-16	\$102	
Received after 12-31-16	\$117	
Student Member Registration – Received by 12-31-16	\$50	
Received after 12-31-16	\$60	
Extra Friday Night Banquet Ticket For Guests Quantity: _____	\$35	
Donations (<i>optional</i>) to Texas Chapter AFS	-----	
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST (<i>make checks payable to TCAFS; no cash!!!</i>)		\$ _____

ADDITIONAL MEETING SIGN-UP INFO: *Free for all registrants - please indicate if you plan to participate.*

Willingness to serve as a presentation judge at meeting (TCAFS Professional Members only, students are not eligible).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Thursday Continuing Education Workshop:</u>	
1. Remote Sensing in Habitat & Fisheries Assessments Presenter: Emma Clarkson (TPWD Coastal Fisheries)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Otolith Microchemistry 101: An Introduction for Fisheries Scientists Presenter: Dr. Benjamin Walther and Dr. Matthew Altenritter (TAMU-Corpus Christi)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Friday Student/Mentor Lunch:</u> Pair up with someone with interest in or experience with governmental agency, academia, private consulting, etc. (select your role or leave blank if not interested)	Student <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Saturday TCAFS Business Meetings:</u> TCAFS business meeting will occur following the technical sessions Saturday morning. Please attend for more information on committees to serve on, chapter business and any potential voting that may be conducted.	

SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO MICHAEL HOMER:

- **One (1) form per person.**
- **Please make checks payable to TCAFS; DO NOT SEND CASH!!!**

____ To pay by Credit Card (PayPal), check here and send completed registration form to Michael Homer. Form may also be scanned and sent via email. (A PayPal invoice will be sent to email address provided above with instructions on how to pay using your credit card).

Michael Homer Jr.
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Ablene, TX 79603
Phone: 325-692-0921
Michael.Homer@tpwd.texas.gov

Join the Texas Chapter

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site, www.sdafs.org/tcafs/index.htm or by contacting Deborah Wade, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2234, Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us

If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the chapter newsletter.

Members are encouraged to make submissions to the Newsletter Editor by mail or e-mail to one of the addresses listed below.

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