



June 2019 Newsletter
Volume 45, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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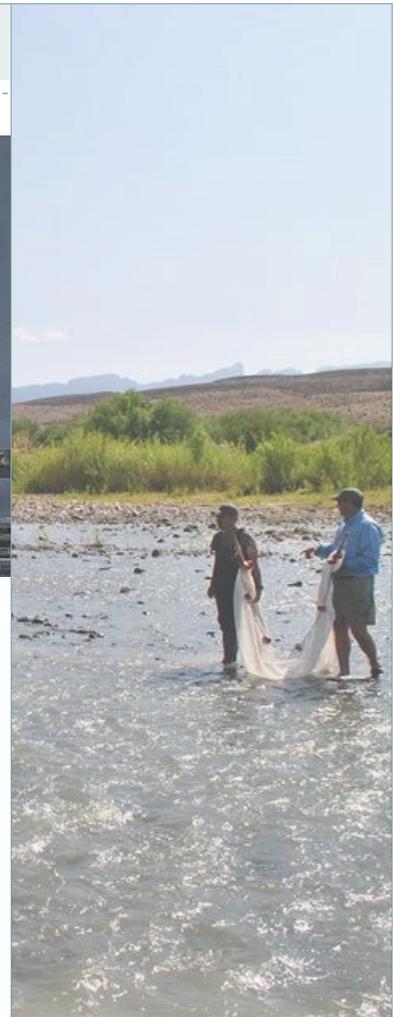
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DAN DAUGHERTY

Howdy, folks! Well, the proverbial dust has finally settled on the over two-year planning effort we started back in the fall of 2016 to host the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society's annual meeting in conjunction with our Texas chapter meeting this past January. Despite the untimely issues with the Federal shutdown, we recorded the third highest attendance in the history of the SDAFS, with over 550 attendees taking part in seven technical committee meetings, 14 continuing education workshops, and almost 300 technical presentations. What seemed like a very daunting task to execute - both logistically and financially - we pulled off with little more than a hiccup. In the interim, I have received many compliments from attendees and vendors on virtually every aspect of the meeting, from the quality and diversity of the professional events, to the evening socials, to the choice of venue. As such, I thank each and every one of you for your support, encouragement, assistance, and attendance - regardless of the capacity, you served and represented your chapter well. There are, however, a number of individuals and entities that wholly deserve special recognition. The success of our meeting can largely be attributed to the Herculean efforts of Ken Kurzawski, Alice Best, Allison Pease, Jake Norman, Lynn Wright, Sarah Haas, Debbie Wade, George Guillen, Michele Nations, Josh Perkin, Jessica Baumann, Nicole Rankin, Tom Lang, Randy Rushin, Stephen Curtis, Stephanie George, Niki Ragan, Greg Southard, Annette Sudyka, Michael Homer, Chris Mace, and Ben Yeager. The financial support of all of our sponsors and vendors, headlined by Mossback Fish Attractors, was absolutely critical to our ability to provide a quality experience to our attendees. And last, but certainly not least, the staff of Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center, who provided a wonderfully inviting and professional atmosphere and went out of their way to make sure that each and every aspect of our meeting went off without a hitch. Thank you.

With the meeting now behind us, the TCAFS leadership team has been working on recruiting some new committee chairs to fill the shoes of those that have moved on to bigger and better things as well as started the process of planning TCAFS 2020. Our President-elect, Dr. Kirk Winemiller, has been working diligently on securing a venue for next year's chapter meeting. Past-president Michael Homer has been assisting with wrapping up some updates to the chapter bylaws and procedures, while our newly-minted secretary/treasurer, Natalie Goldstrohm, has been working with outgoing secretary/treasurer, Niki Ragan, to transfer recordkeeping and financial responsibilities. Collectively, we have welcomed Alice Best and past-president Dave Buzan to co-chair our editorial committee, Shaun Donovan to head up publicity and exhibits, and lastly, Dr. Matt Acre has agreed to assume the role of our newsletter editor (this being his first one!). Thank you to all for your willingness to serve these very important roles - be on the lookout for some new and innovative ideas from these folks.

During my remaining tenure as President, I'll continue with efforts to streamline the way we do business within the chapter, as well as look at the possibilities of providing greater services to all our members. More on this in the next newsletter. Till then, take care!



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ITEMS OF NOTE

- Membership dues need paid for 2019, they were not included in registration costs at this years SDAFS meeting in Galveston
- To renew or start a new membership fill out the form at the link below and email to Natalie Goldstrohm: <https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/03/TCAFS-Membership-Form-2019.pdf>
- Natalie.Goldstrohm@tpwd.texas.gov

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY KIRK WINEMILLER



With this being my first newsletter entry as chapter president-elect, I would like to begin by saying thank you to the membership for selecting me to join the leadership team of our wonderful organization. I've benefitted greatly from my three decades of TCAFS membership, and I'm glad to have this opportunity to give back. We've always had one of the best chapters (one could argue the best chapter), and I've been amazed by remarkable developments in how our profession confronts fisheries challenges with science and policy. Our chapter members have been at the forefront of many of these innovations, and each new cohort of fisheries students and professionals has surpassed the lofty expectations set by the previous ones.

Well, it was clear to me that I would need plenty of assistance to get up to speed on chapter business, and I'm thankful that several people already have helped me establish some footing. I especially appreciate advice received from current president Dan Daugherty and past presidents Michael Homer and Dave Buzan. My major task for this year is to organize next year's chapter meeting.

Several venues have been investigated, and we are negotiating with a promising candidate in central Texas. The venue won't be announced until arrangements have been finalized, so stay tuned for an update with complete information about next year's meeting.

Related to this is a call for ideas and volunteers for workshops for next year's meeting. In recent years, we've held two workshops during Thursday afternoon prior to the evening student/professional mixer. Past workshops have covered topics ranging from genomics, otolith microchemistry, freshwater mussel biology, statistics, and remote sensing. Potential topics might include protection of endangered species; managing invasive species; how to prepare for employment by agencies, NGOS or consulting firms; ecological modeling; environmental flows; or tips for publishing in peer-reviewed journals. If you have an idea for a workshop or questions, please contact me at k-winemiller@tamu.edu. I look forward to hearing from many of you over the coming months, and to seeing all of you next year at our meeting.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ROB WELLER—BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION 1996

INSIDE "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"

We have decided to start a new series titled "Where Are They Now?"

In this series we are attempting to find past TCAFS award recipients, particularly past student members, and see where their professional career has gone since their time with the Texas Chapter.

This issue we have found Rob Weller who won best student presentation in 1996.

If you want to hear from a particular past student member, let us know and we'll try to track them down.

The current structure of the series is a Q&A, much like a traditional interview. If you have suggestions to make this series better, please let us know!

Q: Where are you now and what is your current role?

A: I currently live in Albany Georgia which is located in the SW portion of the state. I work for the GA Wildlife Resources Division as the Fisheries Management Regional Supervisor. It is a 39 county region in SW Georgia. We manage two warmwater hatcheries, three major reservoirs and the fisheries of the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers. We have 13 salaried professional and technical staff and a couple of hourlies.

Q: After your time in Texas and winning the award in 1996 what was the path that led you to your current position? Did you go straight to GA or were there many job stops along the way?

A: I was employed by the State of Georgia in the fall of 1996 as a biologist working with the invasive flathead catfish populations in the Altamaha River System. I was promoted to Senior Biologist in 2001 in our Waycross Regional office where I was responsible for managing Georgia's American shad population, the Okefenokee swamp and Satilla River fisheries, and a public fishing area. I was promoted to my current position in 2004.

Q: Are you still working with Flathead Catfish occasionally?

A: I still do some work with Flathead catfish. We do standardize ictalurid sampling in our major rivers each year, so I still get to wrestle with some big ugly flatheads. As the regional supervisor I spend more time in the office doing administrative work but I still get out in the field.

Q: Any particular memories of TCAFS meetings that you would like to share with the Texas Chapter?

A: I always enjoyed attending and presenting at the Texas Chapter meetings as a student. There were really good interactions between the fisheries professionals and students and I always felt like I got really good feedback on my research. The socials were also a great time.

Q: Would you consider your time as a student in TCAFS an important stepping stone in your professional development?

A: Being a member of the TCAFS was a great experience as a student for the reasons I mentioned above. In addition, there was a lot of interesting fisheries projects to learn about due to the size and ecological diversity of Texas and the several Universities involved with the Chapter.





Members who participated in the state threatened and endangered freshwater fishes workshop in San Marcos, Texas pictured from left to right: Kevin Conway, Tim Birdsong, Sarah Robertson, Melissa Casarez, Adam Cohen, Bob Edwards, Gordon Linam, Matthew Acre, Stephen Curtis, Nate Smith, Josh Perkin, Lance Williams, Kirk Winemiller, Megan Bean, Gary Garrett, Bob Gottfried, & Kevin Mayes

STATE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED FRESHWATER FISHES WORKSHOP

BY TIM BIRDSONG AND MATTHEW ACRE

Freshwater fishes are the most at-risk group of vertebrates on the planet. Currently, they are experiencing extinction rates two orders of magnitude greater than the background extinction rate.

Texas freshwater fishes are equally threatened. In order to begin conservation efforts, a species needs to be formally recognized as such.

Coordinated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries Division, a group of freshwater fish experts gathered in May 2019 to assess the status of Texas freshwater fishes and assemble recommendations on those in need of the added protections offered through listing as State Threatened or Endangered.

Experts completed a tiered assessment process to update the state-level conservation status rankings for 91 of the 191 native freshwater fishes known to occur in Texas. The updated rankings will inform upcoming revisions to the Texas Conservation Action Plan and related list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Updated rankings will also inform forthcoming efforts by NatureServe to reassess the global conservation status of freshwater fishes, and help guide related conservation activities.

Workshop results are expected to be presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission at their August 2019 meeting, and disseminated for public comment in fall 2019.



STATE T&E WORKSHOP

Current state and global rankings can be found at <http://www.natureserve.org/>



1ST WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP GROUP MEETS AT THE 2019 SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP GROUP

BY ALICE BEST, PROGRAM CHAIR OF THE 2019 MEETING OF SDAFS

The first meeting of the SDAFS Women's Leadership Group (WLG) was a success! Held during the 2019 Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in Galveston, Texas, the SDAFS Women's Leadership Group meeting was the first meeting of its kind organized by any AFS division. Its goal was to begin a conversation about how we can best support women in fisheries.

Fifty women from every corner and career stage of fisheries attended the meeting. Even with the huge turnout, we were able to introduce everyone and facilitate a lively and organic round-table discussion. Attendees shared stories of their career paths and planned academic studies; their personal challenges and triumphs; and issues that face women in fisheries and possible solutions to overcome them.

A primary action item that came from the meeting was to set up channels of communication to support networking and mentoring and to start to tackle some of the issues that people were passionate about so we established a Listserv and Slack group. Slack is an online tool where users can participate with channels, each housing conversations they are interested in. For example, one channel will focus on retention of women within the professional workforce and another will focus on balancing being a mom and biologist.

As the first group and meeting of its kind, the SDAFS Women's Leadership group is still figuring out its place in the Division. There has been a strong demand for the formation of a group where women and men of SDAFS can come together to support women in fisheries, and responses during and after the 2019 meeting were overwhelming and humbling. The group will continue to meet at annual SDAFS meetings to establish a mission statement, goals, and formalize support. Between meetings, those wishing to join or support the SDAFS Women's Leadership group may join the Listserv or slack group by emailing fisherieswlg@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who supported this meeting, especially Jess Bauman whose initiative and work created Women's Leadership Group, organized the meeting, and drove it to become a reality. Amy Kay and Emily Griffith, directors of the non-profit group Women of Aquatics, were great resources of support and guidance. Finally, thanks to all the women who turned out for the meeting to start the conversation. We are off to a great start and I am confident this group will become an invaluable tool to women and the fisheries field.

AQUARIUM PYRAMID AT MOODY GARDENS SAVES THE DAY

BY ALICE BEST

By early January it had become apparent that some aspects of the 2019 Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in Galveston, TX would need to be reworked. With federal facilities closed and planned SDAFS visits cancelled, and most other attractions already booked, the outlook for arranging local field trips for SDAFS looked grim.

The Aquarium Pyramid at Moody Gardens stepped in to save the day. George Guillen, Chair of Local Arrangements for the meeting, first approached the Aquarium about a possible tour for SDAFS attendees who bought tickets to the aquarium. However, Roy Drinnen, Assistant Curator of Fishes at Moody Gardens had a better idea: free 1.5 hour behind-the-scene tours for SDAFS attendees.

Over the next two days, Roy and his team led four tours behind—and in some cases over—public exhibits, through the bowels of water filtration and supply systems, and around the aquatic quarantine facility. On the tours we learned how feeding schedules are planned and managed, logistical strategies used to ensure a complex team of staff and volunteers function seamlessly, and when, why, and how you do a water change on a million-gallon tank. SDAFS attendees returned to the technical sessions talking about seeing arapaima up close, how animal personalities affect how each handler interacts with them, and the challenges of managing complex, artificial ecosystems.

Roy and Moody Gardens Aquarium Pyramid Staff, thank you! You created one of the best conference field trips a fisheries biologist could ask for.



Roy Drinnen, Assistant Curator of Fishes at Moody Gardens, shows SDAFS attendees the access bridges and infrastructure of the South Pacific Biome tank which is normally cleverly hidden from view, while discussing outreach programs and fish care.

Roy Drinnen talks to SDAFS attendees on the dive platform about the Caribbean Tank.



Behind-the-scene tours included a full explanation of filtration and water supply systems for the aquarium, including how the facility is designed to withstand tropical storm events. All machinery is raised and the last major flooding event during Hurricane Ike resulted in the loss of only one auxiliary pump.



TAMU AFS SAMPLES HICKS LAKE

BY LAUREN YANCY

In April 2019, the Texas A&M Student Chapter visited Hicks Lake in Bastrop to do a sampling of the two lakes and report back to residents. Electrofishing was used to sample an even spread of each lake.



“What is the neighborhood doing to maintain the lakes?” asked Joshua Perkin. “Nothing at all!” Beverly, a resident of the Hick’s lake neighborhood answered. However, the TAMU AFS group sampled abundant numbers of bluegill and largemouth bass. There was a total of 471 fish caught in both the upper and lower lakes. The 2011 Bastrop fire had ruined property all around Bastrop and the lower lake was then used for helicopters to scoop water out of the lake to fight fire. Ever since, the lake has not come up to the previous level and the resi-

dents only strategy of management seemed to be releasing fish caught in the upper lake back into the lower lake.

Table 1. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE; fish captured/hour) confidence intervals (CI) for five of the most common species captured at Hicks Lake in April 2019.

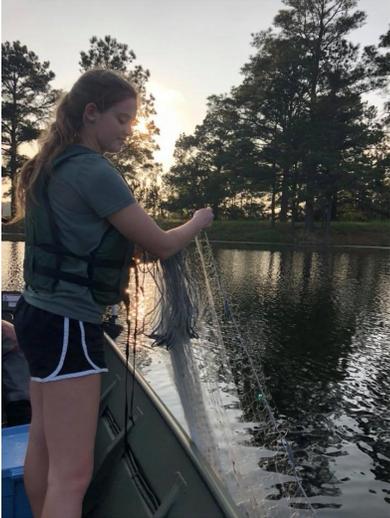
Species	Upper CPUE CI	Lower CPUE CI
Black Crappie	4.7	0
Bluegill	128.2	187.1
Green Sunfish	12.9	14.5
Largemouth Bass	70.6	132.3
Redear Sunfish	45.9	64.5

Click the logos to follow or contact TAMU AFS



Dr. Perkin led the crew explaining distinctive fish anatomy and distinguishable traits. It was a great field experience for undergrads who had not participated before in electrofishing.





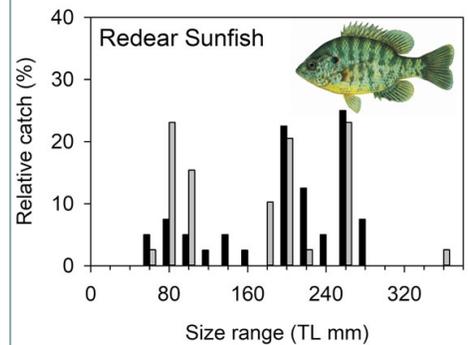
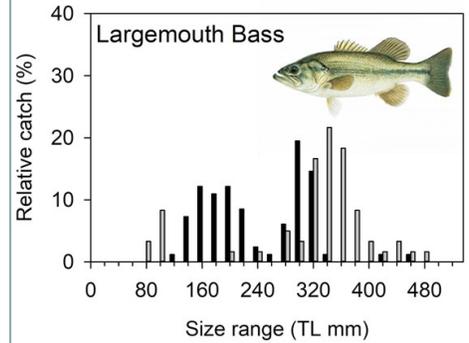
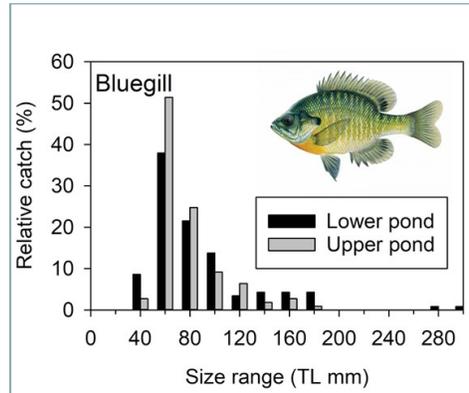
TAMU AFS President Lauren Yancy practices setting gill nets while at Hicks Lake.



Members of TAMU AFS gather around to identify species, length, weight, and tag the fish if appropriate size.



Member Stephen Blair holds one of the largest fish caught while electrofishing.



Relative Catch Percentages with Fish Lengths

“Figure illustrating size distributions of common sportfish in the two ponds surveyed by the Texas A&M University Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society. Each panel shows the percent of catch for each pond across size bins (20 mm; 2 cm). Fish illustrations are by Joseph Tomelleri.”

TEXAS CHAPTER AFS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2019

BY NIKI HARBISON, SECRETARY/TREASURER

Meeting Called to Order – by Michael Homer at 5:03pm.

Motion to Approve Meeting Agenda – Debbie Wade made motion, Alice Best seconded the motion, motion approved.

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Niki Harbison at 5:05pm.

Motion to Accept Meeting Minutes – Michelle Nations made a motion to accept, Dan Daugherty seconded, motion approved.

President's Report – (Michael Homer):

Thank you to all who are here and have helped put this meeting on. A special thank you to the Sponsors and Exhibitors for your support.

It has been an honor to serve the Chapter and thank you for your support.

There are scholarship opportunities that were brought up at the SDAFS meeting:

Noreen Clough – available to female graduate students from B.A.S.S.

SDAFS Meeting Chair and President-Elect Report – (Dan Daugherty):

Have received nothing but compliments on the meeting so far.

Can't thank the planning committee enough for their contributions.

TCAFS was awarded the SDAFS Best Chapter Award

Acknowledged Moody Gardens for their outstanding cooperation on this meeting. (Presented "Thank You" Certificates of Appreciation to the main 2 Moody Gardens staff involved in meeting planning at final meeting on Sunday.)

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – (Niki Ragan-Harbison):

Beginning balance as of 1/1/2018: \$36,547.07

Total Income for 2017: \$122,673.43

Total Expenses for 2017: \$39,229.26

Total Transferred to Endowment Fund: \$6,711.62

Ending balance as of 12/31/2018: \$103,279.62

(See attached budget for 2018 financial details.)

Motion to Approve 2018 Financial Statement – Matt Ward made motion, Brian VanZee seconded the motion, motion approved.

Presentation of 2018 Chapter Awards:

Best Professional Poster Presentation – Melissa Casarez

Best Professional Oral Presentation – Josh Perkin

Best Student Poster Presentation – Emily Richardson

Best Student Oral Presentation – Brittany Harried

Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year:

Fisheries Administration – Tom Lang

Fish Culture – Dr. Michael Matthews

Outstanding Fisheries Student of the Year – Stephanie George (MS) & Cody Craig (PhD)

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Steve Magnelia

Presentation of Scholarships (Kevin Mayes and Jennifer Butler):

Clark Hubbs Award – Kaylyn Zipp

Undergraduate, Harry Tennison – Laynie Funk

Undergraduate, Hollandsworth – Alexandra Nelson

Masters, Hollandsworth – Jill Thompson-Grim

Masters, Harry Tennison – Ethan Taulbee

Masters, Harry Tennison – Polly Hijavsky

Masters, Hollandsworth – Justin Hansen



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

Doctorate, Harry Tennison – Alex Sotola
Doctorate, Hollandsworth – Christopher Biggs
Doctorate, Hollandsworth – Christopher Groff
Doctorate, Hollandsworth – Mariah Livernois

Committee Reports

Awards/History/Facebook – Michelle Nations (present):

There were approximately 300 oral and poster presentations during the meeting.
Thank you to all of the judges!

Scholarship – Jennifer Butler (present):

32 applications received this year and all were outstanding applicants.

Publicity/Exhibits – Stephen Curtis (present) & Stephanie George (not present):

Auction and raffle hasn't happened yet, but thank you to all who helped solicit donations or donated themselves or helped organize and get everything together.
Stephen and Stephanie will be stepping down from the committee. Will need volunteers to fill their positions.

Continuing Ed. – Lynn Wright (present):

13 workshops with a wide range of topics.
All were well attended and everything went well.

Editorial – Alice Best (present):

Recently took over the committee in the middle of being program chair. No report yet but may come out with one by the next meeting.
Possibly looking for a co-chair. If anyone is interested, let Alice know.

Endowments – Dave Terre (present):

We had a good year last year. We had a total of \$16,000 cash for pass-through grants contributed to our scholarship program.
We awarded 11 scholarships. One \$500 Clark Hubbs Award and ten \$1,500 scholarships.
This year was a little rough on investments. We had a dip but have recovered some.
Account Balance is \$312,448 in Endowment Fund.
Currently up to about \$325,000 so has recovered a little bit.
Special thanks to our donors who make these scholarships possible!

Internet – Sarah Haas (present) & John Taylor (present):

No major updates.
If anyone has any ideas on updates or how we can make the website better, let Sarah know.
All of the talks will be recorded and posted online after the meeting. Talks from past meetings are already posted.

Issues – Mark Webb (present) & Niki Ragan-Harbison (present):

No update. Thanks to Michael Homer for taking care of writing and submitting the letters of support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Membership – Debbie Wade (present):

No update. Debbie is retiring soon so she is resigning.

Newsletter – Vacant (not present):

No update.
Kevin Storey retired and resigned so if anyone is interested, let the EXCOM know!

Nominating – Dan Bennett (present):

Thanks to the candidates that agreed to run for office this year! Marcos DeJesus and Kirk Winemiller for president-elect and Natalie Goldstrohm and John Clayton for Secretary/Treasurer.
We had 51 votes.
Dr. Kirk Winemiller from Texas A&M is the new President-Elect.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

Natalie Goldstrohm from TPWD is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Student Outreach – Josh Perkin (present):

Had an overwhelming response for the Student-Mentor Lunch.

Thanks for all who participated and to Moody Gardens for moving the luncheon to a larger space. There were 154 participants in the ballroom and about 200 total participants.

Several students are involved in working at the meeting and helping with various activities such as the raffle and auction. If anyone has ideas on how to streamline the Student-Mentor process, let Josh know. All helpful suggestions are welcome.

Student Subunit Chapter Reports –

TAMU – Vitaly Vogelman, President (present):

- 4 guest speakers from diverse backgrounds (aquaculture, AgriLife, fisheries biologist, environmental botanist)
- Will go to Houston Aquarium in February for a tour
- Southwood Elementary event to inspire future scientists
- Fish Fry at the Aquaculture Facility in exchange for labor
- Helping survey plecos with a graduate student in San Marcos
- Currently have \$188 in their account

TAMUCC – Polly Hajovsky, President (present):

- 11-13 new members
- Participated in a fall Beach Cleanup at the beach the subunit adopted
- Have lots of spring outreach events lined up
- Have guest speakers lined up for spring semester
- Have been doing lots of fundraising for things like monofilament recyclers
- Once they reach \$3,000 they want to start giving travel scholarships to students to go to meetings
- Have raised \$538 at the meeting so far
- Have received \$1,200 from the Harte Institute this year
- Received \$1,000 from SCA for assisting with their banquet
- Thank you for your support!

Tarleton State – Tommy Johnson, President (not present):

No Report.

Old Business:

Update from Michael on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act initiative:

Last year the Chapter opted to draft letters of support. We worked with Ms. Winters (present), Tom Lang, and Mark Webb and the rest of the EXCOM to draft 33 letters of support that were sent to our elected officials – both our House of Representatives and Senators.

The Chapter received 3 responses so far.

We will help with any efforts from above regarding this in any way we can.

Update from Ms. Drew Winters:

Thank you for taking this on. Those letters were really invaluable.

Only 2 Chapters in the country sent letters to every member of their Congressional delegation. Texas has a lot at stake from this legislation, along with California and Alaska have the most to gain from this.

Those letters help her get into the door of Texas offices and get people to our Congressional briefing when Carter Smith spoke.

It really matters when Chapters get involved. Representatives want to hear from constituents, so these letters really do help.

Last year we voted to address some changes to our Bylaws. We had sent our changes to John Norman, the AFS consultant, and he provided comments back addressing our revisions and there were more changes made. Our Bylaws state that those changes are supposed to be presented to the membership so we need to take action. We need to take a vote on whether to accept those changes. We can provide those changes electronically and take an electronic vote, but need to make a motion to do that first.

Alice Best makes motion to provide Bylaws changes electronically and provide an opportunity to vote on them at a later date. Debbie Wade seconded motion. Motion carried.

Installation of Officers

Mike Homer presented Dan with the skeg, "Roberts Rules for Dummies," and his very own MAFA hat.

Dan Daugherty presented Mike with his Past President plaque.

Mike Homer is now the Past President, Dan Daugherty is now President, and Kirk Winemiller is President-Elect.

Dan didn't have the Secretary/Treasurer plaque to give to Niki on site – he'll mail it.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

New Business

Dan Daugherty: We as a state chapter are really blessed with the resources we have as a body, the number of people and the activity level of those people, as well as financially and how we support our students. We give out a lot of awards and scholarships. We could also diversify where we use our resources and expand that to the membership as a whole. Think about possibly developing support and incentives for things like AFS certification and more support to the membership as a whole to attend meetings. Dan proposes developing an ad-hoc committee that is represented by the diversity that we have (agency, university, students, private sector) and think of how we can as a chapter strategically develop a plan that quantitatively and strategically meets our member needs as a whole. This could help with our diversity and inclusion, and with member satisfaction and participation going forward. If you're interested in serving on this committee, let Dan or Mike Homer or the EXCOM know.

George Guillen requested pictures from the Moody Gardens Aquarium tour for putting a thank-you together and for an excerpt in the newsletter about it. Send pictures to Alice Best and she will forward to the new Newsletter Chair.

Past, Past President Report – (Randy Rushin):

Wasn't able to make it to the business meeting last year. Expressed gratitude to the Chapter for letting him lead. It was the highlight of his career and is a joy to be a part of the Chapter as a vendor and fellow biologist.

Past President Announcement – (Michael Homer):

San Antonio River Authority provides an internship to an undergraduate member of the Texas Chapter of AFS every year. Information is available on the website or speak with Doug Knabe or Shaun Donovan.

Adjourn: Niki Ragan-Harison made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dan Daugherty seconded the motion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:11pm.

TEXAS CHAPTER AFS EXCOM MEETING

MARCH 27, 2019

CONFERENCE CALL

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 1:03PM by Dan Daugherty.

Members Present: Dan Daugherty, Mike Homer, Kirk Winemiller, Natalie Goldstrohm, Michele Nations, Lynn Wright, Dave Terre, Sarah Haas, Dan Bennett, Greg Binion, Shaun Donovan, and Jennifer Butler.

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Natalie Goldstrohm

President's Report (Dan Daugherty):

SDAFS wrap up is almost complete. Niki and Greg are waiting on the last of the sponsor checks to arrive. Once these payments arrive, Niki and Greg will finish up the reconciliation and send checks to the continuing education instructors that charged a fee and to SDAFS. There is no final profits calculated yet, however, it is estimated that approximately \$20,000 in profits will be divided between TCAFS and SDAFS. SDAFS likes to have approximately \$5,000 in profits and TCAFS will likely double that amount.

President-Elect (Kirk Winemiller):

Kirk has two locations to consider for the 2020 meeting, Hilton in Waco and La Torretta. Kirk has a Request for Proposal to both locations and both indicated that the dates of Jan 29-Feb 1 (proposed meeting dates) were an option. Kirk would like some guidance on how to calculate total costs for the meeting. Currently both locations are asking for room rates higher than the state rate of \$105.00. Kirk is hoping that both locations will be open to honoring the state rate within the room block. Currently, the Hilton in Waco is offering a room block of 80 rooms, 20 of which will be offered at the state rate (60 rooms will be at a rate of \$135 per night).

Mike Homer indicted that the room rate offered by the Hilton in Waco was not a good deal for the meeting and that a better negotiation should be sought.

Dan Daugherty indicated that the contract for La Torretta would honor the state rate if a certain percentage of the room block was filled. Dan asked if Kirk could contact the Waco Hilton and try to negotiate for a "GSA" rate. Dan also indicated that most of the profits for the meeting could be based on how much the breaks and socials would cost and that the food cost was higher at La Torretta. Mike indicated that if the cost of the meeting would be higher because of cost of breaks and socials, then the cost of registration would also need to be higher to offset the cost of the meeting.

Dan indicated that neither contract indicated a payment plan, however it was important to consider especially if a venue wanted a percentage of the cost of the meeting upfront.

Dan said that many venues ask if we have liability insurance and we do.

MARCH EXCOMM MEETING CONTINUED

Past President (Mike Homer):

Mike said that the online store for the T-shirts closed. There were not enough fishing shirts sold to meet the minimum order and refunds would need to be sent.

Action: Mike will follow up with the online store to see what is needed on our end if we need to do something to initiate those refunds. The short-sleeved shirts that were ordered will be sent out.

We have received the Bylaws edits from John Boreman, AFS Constitutional Consultant, and they are ready for a vote by TCAFS.

We should try to set up voting by April 15th and leave voting up for 2 weeks.

Michele mentioned that voting can only be done by those that are Society members.

Mike also thanked everyone involved in the planning of SDAFS meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer (Natalie Goldstrohm):

Natalie is working on gathering documents needed for 2018 taxes and working with Sarah Hass on streamlining membership forms with an option for PayPal.

There is an outstanding bill for award certificates from 2018 and 2019. Our bill indicates that this bill has been sent out to a collection agency. Natalie talked with Niki (previous Treasurer) about the AFS bill and no invoices had been sent to her.

Dan will contact AFS to see if we can have the collection agency called off.

Awards (Michele Nations):

Michele had notified the students that had won best student oral presentation and best student poster presentation.

History (Michele Nations):

Michele is working on uploading pictures from the SDAFS meeting. She would like to post some of the pictures to Facebook and to Twitter.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright):

Lynn will contact Kirk Winemiller to see if he has any ideas about continuing education classes. Kirk asked what a good timeline would be to have continuing education set up by. Dan indicated that registrations and abstracts were usually requested in September. Lynn tries to have continuing educator instructors set up in May and June and finalize the commitment by August. Michele asked if there would be a theme to this meeting. Mike said that since we have a broad group of people that attend TCAFS meetings, that it would be hard to have a theme. Dan agreed and indicated that one reason that TCAFS has gone away with the plenary session.

Dan suggested that Lynn look back at some of the higher attended programs at SDAFS meeting to see what most interested people. Lynn said that the photography session was highly attended but added that most of the free SDAFS continuing education session were attended highly because of cost and that attendance might not be an indicator of interest.

Michele suggested an education session on zebra mussels.

Lynn will send Kirk a list of continuing education workshops that had been conducted over the last few years.

Dan said that he had worked on the creation of how to become a good scientific writer and reviewer for primary literature. Dan said that he could lead this workshop and could be something that we could use if the future.

Michele suggested a continuing education class similar to the SDAFS symposium that was canceled due to the government shutdown "learning how to be a good supervisor"

Editorial (Alice Best):

Not present. No report.

Endowment (Dave Terre):

Dave said that the endowment account was above \$340,000. The account profits have been variable with some high points and drops at the end of last year. The average increase in the account was 4.5% annually.

Action: Send Dan the range of account growth through time.

Dave will meet with Edward Jones (account holder) to review the portfolio and make sure that the account is performing.

Dave would like to maintain the principal amount in the account and only use the interest that this generated.

Dave thanked the San Antonio River Authority for continuing to offer TCAFS student members a summer internship. The relationship has been beneficial for both groups (TCAFS and SARA) and is glad that the relationship continues to flourish.

Internet (Sarah Haas and John Taylor):

Sarah will update the officers and chairs website.

Sarah has been working on the online 2019 membership form and will work with Natalie on how to access the information collected in the form.

The bylaws document and procedures draft have been posted online.

Action: Excom take a look at the webpage and suggest documents that can be removed from the public facing site.

Membership (Vacant position):

No update

Newsletter (Vacant position):

No update

Nominating (Dan Bennett):

Dan is taking suggestions for the president election at the 2020 meeting.

Action: if you know someone that might be a good candidate, please let Dan Bennett know.

Pond Management (Greg Binion):



MARCH EXCOMM MEETING CONTINUED

The pond management committee has been working on streamlining the pond management document in four different sections: pond construction, stocking guidelines, vegetation, and troubleshooting common problems. The committee has agreed to tackle the revisions one section at a time beginning with pond construction. Greg had reached out the previous committee chair, Craig Bonds.

Publicity/Exhibits (Shawn Donovan)

Mike thanked Shawn for taking the position.

Shawn will work with Stephan and Stephanie (previous publicity/exhibits committee chairs) to get some information about the position.

Shawn plans on utilize the student subunits to solicit location groups for donations so that the chair position had more time to approach the corporate groups for donations and sponsorships.

Kirk mentioned that in the interest of increasing our diversity and inclusion of members, that there might be a more sensitive way to auction fire arms at the meeting instead of having them displayed during the banquet.

Mike mentioned the history of including guns for the card raffle was that they usually generate a lot of interest, sell the playing cards quickly, and we get the items at cost to the chapter to maximize the profits for student scholarships.

Dave Terre mentioned that we have many outdoor oriented people at the meeting who enjoy both fishing and hunting. He felt that hunting guns should not be excluded from an auction opportunity since we have a range of items for auction at the banquet that will generate a lot of interest of the people attending.

Mike suggested Shawn explore ways to create a happy medium (perhaps include a picture of the hunting gun instead of having the firearm at dinner).

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler):

Jennifer thanked all that helped judge the student scholarships (Dave, Mike, and Michele).

TCAFS

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is committed to the conservation, development, and wise utilization of recreational and commercial fisheries, the promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice, and the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects.

TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY PURPOSE AND GOALS

The general purposes and responsibilities of the Texas Chapter are as follows:

1. Support AFS Parent Society objectives. Specifically:
 - A. Promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries;
 - B. Promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice;
 - C. Gather and disseminate to Society members and the general public scientific, technical, and other information about fisheries science and practice through publications, meetings, and other forms of communication; and
 - D. Encourage the teaching of fisheries science and practice in colleges and universities and the continuing education and development of fisheries professionals.
2. As the smallest geographically defined unit recognized as being operationally independent in the Society's Constitution, a Chapter shares the purposes of the Society but is intended to advance the Society's objectives over a more localized area than the Divisions, in this case, within the state of Texas.
3. The Texas Chapter generally provides for interaction among professionals within Texas. The Texas Chapter is a unit of the Southern Division.
4. Facilitate communication among members (by newsletters and other means) regarding fisheries science issues and the conduct of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
5. Hold meetings, publish works, and perform other activities on a technical and semi-technical level that advance the status and performance of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
6. Determine the views of members relative to professional topics affecting their performance, for example, by conducting surveys and considering resolutions.
7. Present the views of Chapter members to the Division membership, the AFS membership, and to the general public and government agencies within the Chapter's boundaries.
8. Hold annual meetings at which all Bylaw responsibilities are carried out.
9. Serve as technical and professional advisors to government agencies within the Chapter's region.
10. Promote the fisheries profession within the Chapter's boundaries through active and positive relations with journalists, government officials, special interest groups, other professional organizations, and the general public.
11. Promote proper use of aquatic resources by initiating and participating in special projects that increase public awareness, expand participation, improve habitat, and protect fragile resources.

TCAFS NEWSLETTER

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Note from the newsletter team:

If you have ideas for stories or photographs from the field you would like to share please email Matthew Acre.

We can help develop and write stories, so please reach out, even if the idea is not completed yet.