

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

November 2020

Volume 46, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KIRK WINEMILLER

Well, Folks, 2020 continues to be the strangest year that any of us has ever experienced. The pandemic continues to threaten health, impact the economy, disrupt social and political dynamics, and interfere with every-day life. Fisheries professionals have been affected in many different ways.



Travel for research and other business has been curtailed; meetings and conferences have been cancelled or converted to remote formats; and budgets and employment opportunities have been diminished for many agencies, institutions and businesses. Given the uncertainty associated with the pandemic and the related social, political, and economic fallout, it is difficult to make plans for almost anything. Nonetheless, we're all doing the best we can. Now more than ever, it is important for people to come together to deal with current challenges. In no way has this pandemic diminished the commitment of TCAFS members to advance research, fisheries management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental health for the benefit of all segments of society and the natural world that sustains us.

Now it appears that e-commerce, working remotely, online education, and virtual meetings are the norm. As our members are aware, the parent society convened a virtual conference this year, the 150th anniversary of the American Fisheries Society. Many of you registered and participated, and I will be curious to learn about your experiences and impressions. I must admit that I found it difficult to keep track of technical sessions and meetings that were scheduled at irregular times over a two-week interval. With the best of intentions to view presentations and participate in section meetings, I too often found myself seated in front of my computer preoccupied with the daily demands of my job. I missed most of the presentations that I wanted to see. Fortunately, the sessions were recorded and available for later viewing by registrants.

Now we are planning for the 2021 Texas Chapter meeting, which will be a virtual conference similar to the one held by the parent society.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| President-Elect's Message..... | 2 |
| Call for Abstracts..... | 4 |
| Student Scholarships | 5 |
| Call for Nominations..... | 7 |
| SARA internship opportunity | 8 |
| Where are they now?..... | 9 |
| Committee Service Opportunity | 12 |
| 2020 Awards..... | 13 |
| Member Contributions | 18 |
| July EXCOM meeting minutes | 19 |
| Membership Info | 22 |
| Purpose & Goals | 23 |
| Behind the Scenes..... | 24 |

ITEMS OF NOTE

- The 2021 TCAFS meeting will be virtual. Details inside!
- Dates to remember:
 - ◊ Meeting Date: 2/4–2/6/2021
 - ◊ Scholarship Applications: 12/1/20
 - ◊ OFW Nominations: 12/1/20
 - ◊ Clark Hubbs Applications: 12/18/20
 - ◊ Abstracts Submissions: 1/1/2021
 - ◊ SARA Applications: 2/28/2021

Continued

President's Message, Continued

This newsletter contains information about the meeting to be held February 2-4. Given the lower costs associated with online delivery, the registration fee will be lower than what has been charged for a normal meeting. Technical sessions and online posters will be recorded and made available to registrants after the meeting. Since we will not be able to hold an auction and raffle during a dinner, funds for student scholarships will have to be raised other means currently in the planning stages. I am grateful for the dedication and talents of our chapter leaders, especially President-elect Dakus Geeslin, Sarah Haas (Internet chair), Alice Best (Editorial chair), Natalie Goldstrohm (Secretary-Treasurer) and Shaun Donovan (Publicity/Exhibits chair), who scrambled to organize a virtual conference. This is not something any of them has ever done before, and these clever people were able to figure things out with impressive speed and agility. Even more remarkable, they did this while dealing with other obligations and challenges during this year of the pandemic.

Finally, our chapter leadership has spent some time discussing recent AFS initiatives related to diversity, inclusion, and professional conduct. This seems to be the right time to review our chapter policies and explore ideas for some initiatives.

Well, Folks, stay safe, and I hope to see ya'll (virtually) at our next chapter meeting.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

Howdy, everyone. I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy, happy, and well. As we enter the holiday season, I encourage you take time away from work, projects, and school to enjoy the changing of the seasons outdoors and spend some quality time with friends and families in a safe manner. I encourage everyone to reach out to friends and family that you may not be able to see in person and let them know you are thinking about them and wish them well. We have found short-lived family zoom meetings can lift spirits and offer everyone the chance to share a few stories and laughs.

Speaking of virtual meetings, let's shift to our plans for our annual meeting. One of the primary duties of President-Elect is to coordinate the annual chapter meeting. Like many of you our annual meeting is one of the highlights of my year. Our chapter is world renowned for our ability to gather and share fisheries information, award-deserving fisheries professionals and hard-working students, and we celebrate amongst our tight knit community in the way of socials, dinners, and fund-raising activities.



President-Elect's Message, Continued

Given the curveball that the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown us, your executive committee had to make some tough decisions regarding our annual meeting. We pored over the options ranging from canceling the meeting altogether to attempting to meet in person with the hope that COVID-19 cases would be declining by next year. After much thought and deliberation, the consensus was the show must go on! We quickly formed a meeting planning team and determined that a virtual meeting would be the way to go for our 2021 annual meeting.

I want to share a few details regarding the 2021 virtual annual meeting.

Dates: February 2-4, 2021.

Virtual Platform: Zoom. We will host multiple Zoom meetings over the 3 days.

Format and Content: Continuing education sessions, a plenary session, technical sessions, awards and scholarships, and business meeting.

Registration Costs: \$50 for professionals, \$25 for students.

Fundraising efforts: 2021 Virtual meeting merchandise sales.

As you can see the planning team has made every attempt to maintain the in-person meeting format. We have also adapted to a virtual setting to provide a high-quality meeting and offer multiple professional development and networking opportunities. The virtual meeting will hopefully draw in attendees that may not have attended an in-person meeting. I encourage you to share the meeting details with your colleagues and peers and recruit them to our chapter. Please keep an eye out for call for abstracts, registration forms, award and scholarship applications, and merchandise sales. Our merchandise sales will be our primary fundraising effort this year, so please do your part to support the chapter scholarships and awards.

I would be remiss if I did not give a shout-out to our virtual meeting planning team. Our team decided rather than source out a vendor and pay them to host our meeting, that we would do it ourselves. This means extra work in uncharted waters of the virtual world. With this team's skills and abilities, anything is possible. Thank you all for your time, effort, and energy that makes our chapter the best in the nation. I'm confident the virtual meeting of 2021 will be one for the ages. I hope all our members and prospective new members will share in this historic event.



TCAFS

2021 MEETING

CALL
FOR
ABSTRACTS

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

FEBRUARY 2-4 2021

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting is going virtual this year! We will miss gathering with friends and colleagues in person but look forward to another great year of continuing education and presentations on the latest research in fisheries science.

Help make TCAFS 2021 a success and submit your abstract now! The oral presentations will be live with time for questions and answers. Join us for some fun during our annual exchange of fisheries knowledge!

[SUBMIT ABSTRACT HERE](#)

All presentations will be presented virtually this year.

Please read the instructions below carefully and direct any questions to Alice.Best@tpwd.texas.gov.

Authors will be notified of acceptance following the submission deadline (January 1) and of scheduling by January 15, 2021.

Oral presentations will be given live with the option to present slides while speaking. Please note that oral presentations will be scheduled in 15-minute time slots; therefore, you should plan for a 12-minute presentation and 3 minutes for questions. All oral presenters will be required to do a trial run and system check with TCAFS Virtual Meeting moderators prior to the meeting. Sign up slots for trial runs will be available after your abstract is accepted.

Poster presentations will be presented online as a PDF for meeting attendees to view on their own. Poster presenters should be prepared to answer questions about their project by email during the conference (February 2nd – 4th). Poster dimensions must be 14 inches by 8.5 inches and are limited to two pages. A poster format template is available. If you would like to use the template, please email Alice.Best@tpwd.texas.gov.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) is seeking deserving students enrolled in fisheries related curricula in the State of Texas.

Up to ten scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each will be awarded to a minimum of two undergraduate students, one Master's student, and one Ph.D. student. Applicants must be a current student at the time of scholarship award (January 2021). Students are eligible to receive one award in each degree category during their scholastic career. No nomination is necessary, and more than one student from the same university may apply in each category. Scholarships will be awarded during the 2021 Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting to be held virtually February 2-4, 2021. Scholarship winners should plan to attend the virtual meeting to receive their award.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their academic excellence, professional activities, promise of future professional involvement, and contributions to the field of fisheries science.

Applications must be received by Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 11:59PM CST. A PDF of the application may be obtained from the TCAFS website. Applications can be submitted in a Word document or a PDF.

Applications should be submitted by email to Jennifer.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov.

Please direct applications and questions to:
Jennifer Butler – Scholarship Committee Chair
(979) 292-0100 ext. 225
Jennifer.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov

Directions:

Type all materials and limit your answers to cover the period of your college career only.

- 1) General Information
Name:
Mailing Address:
Phone Number:
Email Address:
College/University:
Degree/Classification (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctorate):
Overall GPA (most recent):
Expected Graduation Date:
- 2) List all relevant work and volunteer experience since beginning college-level studies.
- 3) List honors, fellowships, and scholarships that you have received.
- 4) List any relevant professional society, scientific society, and honor society activities.
- 5) Describe ways in which you have exhibited leadership potential. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.
- 6) Provide a statement describing your career goals. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.
- 7) Describe your reasons for pursuing a career in fisheries science. Include your personal philosophy of natural resource conservation. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.

TCAFS 2021

STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS



TCAFS 2021

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

CLARK HUBBS RESEARCH AWARD

Award Criteria

The Clark Hubbs Student Research Scholarship provides for one award annually up to \$500 in support of student research in any aspect of fisheries science. Applicants must be students (undergraduate or graduate) currently enrolled in an institution of higher education, sponsored by a faculty member, and a member of the TCAFS. The award (maximum of \$500) will be made in support of any aspect of research on fishes of Texas, except for travel to meetings. All funds are intended to go towards expenditures directly applicable to the stated research project. All qualified students are encouraged to apply. Only applications that adhere to the format described below will be considered. A letter of recommendation must be submitted in support of the application from the research advisor. All materials must be received by the Sub-Committee Chair no later than December 18, 2020. The award winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting and attendance is requested.

Prepare applications in the following format:

- Contact Information: include name, institution, department, mailing address, phone number, and email.
- Student Classification: (Undergraduate, Masters candidate, Ph.D. candidate).
- Expected Graduation Date.
- Curriculum Vitae: include publications, meeting or poster presentations.
- Research Project: include project title, dates, objectives, and location. Limit narrative to one single-spaced page (font no smaller than 12 pt).
- Letter of Recommendation from Major Professor or Research Advisor.

Submittal Information:

Applications must be received by Dec. 18, 2020. Please e-mail applications to:
Kevin Mayes, Chair
Clark Hubbs Student Research Scholarship Sub-Committee
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
kevin.mayes@tpwd.texas.gov

Evaluation Criteria:

Criteria are consistent with the fisheries research legacy established by Dr. Clark Hubbs, Professor Emeritus, The University of Texas. Research proposals may target freshwater or estuarine fishes. Evaluation criteria include the following:

- Research involved with the ecology, biology, taxonomy, and life history of fishes.
- Research aimed at restoration or preservation of fish species and their habitats.
- Relevance of research to conservation and preservation of fishes and habitats.
- Feasibility of the research in meeting current needs of the science.
- Scientific merit involved in development of the experimental design.
- Research involved with rare, threatened or endangered fish species, and their critical habitat needs.

Questions may be submitted to any of the Sub-Committee members:

Kevin Mayes, Chair (512) 754-6844 kevin.mayes@tpwd.texas.gov

Bob Edwards (512) 820-9946 robert.edwards@utexas.edu

Gary Garrett (830) 377-5770 gpgdiga@gmail.com

Ray Mathews (512) 619-5462 ocean_reefs@yahoo.com

Gene Wilde (806) 742-1983 gene.wilde@ttu.edu

Kirk Winemiller (979) 862-4020 k-winemiller@tamu.edu



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS & JUDGING

BY BRITTANY CHESSER, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

I am excited to be on board with the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society this year serving as the Awards Committee Chair. In the past, I have been involved with both the Mississippi and Mid-Atlantic Chapters, and I am happy to continue my involvement through TCAFS. Also, a huge thank you to Michele Nations for her continual guidance in preparing me for the upcoming year.

One way to stay involved while we are all going virtual is to acknowledge your peers who may be deserving of the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year (OFW) Award. This award recognizes fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas, which can span more than one year, in the following categories: Fisheries Administration, Fish Culture, Fisheries Education, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Research, Fisheries Technical Support, Fisheries Student, and Special Recognition in Fisheries Work.

Nominations can only be made by TCAFS members, and the nominee must also be a member. However, the exception to this is for the category of Special Recognition in Fisheries Work where only the one who submits the nomination must be a TCAFS member. This Special Recognition award can be for an individual or organization.

The nominees for each category may meet one or more of the requirements found on our website.

Nominations are due on December 1, 2020. To submit a nomination, please fill out the [nomination form](#), in its entirety, and email it to me at: brittany.chesser@tamu.edu

Secondly, in order to prepare for our upcoming meeting, I am soliciting judges to evaluate presentations and posters. I'll be looking for a minimum of four judges for each presentation and poster, which is also another great way to be involved in the virtual meeting!

If you have any interest in judging, please contact me (brittany.chesser@tamu.edu). If you have served as a judge in previous years, I will be contacting you in the near future in hopes of your continued involvement. Additionally, you will be able to indicate judging interest on the registration form.

Some people judge only one presentation or poster, and that is good – it allows a person to participate and be one of those four to judge a presentation. Judges will be scoring presentations and posters based on introduction, methods, organization, originality, technical merit, delivery and visual aids. See our award webpage (above) for more detailed criteria and our May 2020 (Vol 46(1)) Newsletter for past winners.

Information I need from prospective judges:

- ◇ Name
- ◇ Affiliation
- ◇ Email address
- ◇ Cell phone #
- ◇ Preferences
 - ◆ Professional or student presentations
 - ◆ Oral and/or posters
 - ◆ Days/times of availability (more information to come based on virtual format)
- ◇ Topics of interest (e.g., coastal or inland, hatchery or management, etc.)

TCAFS 2021 NOMINATIONS AND JUDGING



MICHAEL GONZALES MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP

MICHAEL GONZALES MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP

SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The “Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship”, will be open to all eligible non-graduate student members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The Internship was established in 2012 to honor Michael Gonzales, former Deputy Director of Technical Services at the San Antonio River Authority. The internship opportunity is awarded to a highly motivated outstanding undergraduate student of a Texas institute of higher education. This internship is designed to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management, biology, chemistry and other natural sciences among groups underrepresented in these professions. The candidate selected will intern with the San Antonio River Authority Environmental Sciences Department in San Antonio, Texas.



Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Assists in the collection and preservation of biological, water and wastewater samples

- Conducts routine water quality collections throughout the San Antonio River basin
- Collects fish, habitat, and benthic macroinvertebrate data to assess stream health; learns how to identify fish and benthic macroinvertebrates of the San Antonio River basin
- Conducts freshwater mussel surveys using a variety of methods
- Assists biologists with data collection, data processing, and report writing in support of routine monitoring as well as ongoing research projects
- Become familiar with TCEQ sampling protocol in support of the Clean Rivers Program
- Makes unbiased observations of aquatic and riparian conditions
- Assists with the calibration, operation, and maintenance of ESD field instruments

Other Responsibilities

- Intern will be instructed in sample and laboratory QA/QC procedures as well as Data Management practices
- Spend time shadowing environmental laboratory staff
- Performs other tasks as assigned

Education, Experience and Skills Required

- Must be an undergraduate at an accredited college or university with a minimum total cumulative 3.0 grade point average
- Must be a member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society prior to beginning internship
- Must be well organized and able to manage time efficiently
- Must be competent in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Must be able to communicate clearly and concisely
- Must be able to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with the general public and fellow employees
- Ability to swim preferred

MICHAEL GONZALES MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP

Working Conditions

Interns are asked to commit to 40 hours per week. Workdays are primarily Monday through Thursday (10 hour per day) but will vary occasionally with weather and “Other Responsibilities”. The internship will be over a 13-week period running from mid-May to mid-August 2021. Work will be outdoors most of the time, sometimes in adverse weather, and the intern may be exposed to typical hazards of outdoor work such as poison ivy, wasps, snakes, and other natural and mechanical hazards. May be exposed to hazardous chemicals and disease-causing agents.

Regularly wades into water bodies to gather samples, collect data, measure flows and record information.

Navigates remote portions of the river in kayaks and other small watercraft. Operates potentially hazardous equipment such as electro-shockers, power boats, generators and winches.

Regularly and safely lifts, carries, and handles supplies and equipment weighing at least forty (40) pounds.

Must be able to perform in a small but highly professional team-oriented environment.

Must be able to function in a principle-based organization that has a culture built on character and Core Values of Stewardship, Integrity, and Excellence.

Requirements

Candidates for this internship must meet the following qualifications:

- Enrolled at an accredited college or university for at least one semester after completion of internship (Individuals graduating in May 2021 are not eligible for this position)
- Minimum total cumulative 3.0 grade point average
- Provide transcripts
- Member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society prior to beginning internship
- Provide 2 letters of recommendation
- Provide a 500-word essay explaining your professional goals
- Provide resume

NOTICE

SARA will post the Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship on December 14, 2020. Applications will close on February 28, 2021. The selected intern will be notified by April 1, 2021.

The selected intern for the Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship will receive \$7,000.00 for thirteen (13) weeks work.

For more information about the River Authority please visit www.sariverauthority.org. If you are a true innovative thinker with a passion for supporting a motivated and diverse team of professionals, please click [here](#).

Please direct any question pertaining to this internship to:

Karen Sablan
San Antonio River Authority
Aquatic Biologist II, Environmental Sciences Department
600 E. Euclid Ave.
San Antonio, Texas 78212
(210)302-3673
karens@sara-tx.org



INSIDE “WHERE ARE THEY NOW”

This series was established 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 Casey Williams who won best student fisheries presentation in 2004.

If you want to hear from a particular past student member, let us know and we'll try to track them down. If you have suggestions to make this series better, please let us know!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BY CASEY WILLIAMS, BEST FISHERIES PRESENTATION 2004

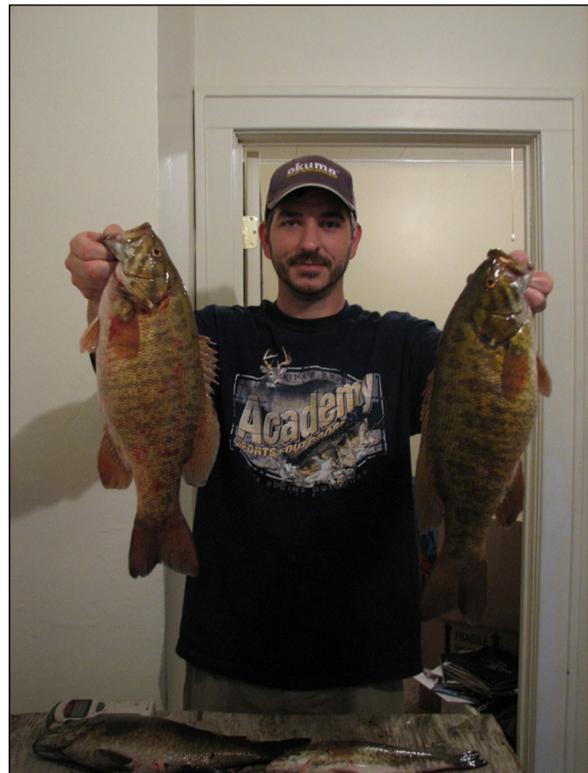
Hello from the far North! My name is Casey Williams and I am an Associate Professor (hopefully Full Professor after this year) in the Fisheries and Wildlife program at Valley City State University in Valley City, North Dakota. My wife Carla and I also own a small farm that keeps us busy during our spare time.

I first became involved in the Texas Chapter during 2002 when I was a master's degree student under Tim Bonner at Texas State University. I remained at Texas State to complete my Ph.D. in Aquatic Resources and I continued my involvement in both the Texas Chapter and the Parent Society while at Texas State. Afterward, I spent a little over two years as a postdoc at the Utah Water Research Lab (Utah State University). Most of my research while in Texas was focused on nongame stream fish. While in Utah, all of my work was focused on gamefish including Colorado River and Bonneville Cutthroat Trout.

While in Utah, I was invited to go pheasant hunting in Pierre, South Dakota. After a great week of shooting pheasants, I decided that I wanted to move to the Great Plains area. One of the main reasons I was attracted to the area was the very low human population. A few months later, the fisheries professor position opened in Valley City, ND, and I figured it would be a similar environment. Luckily, the interview went well, and I accepted the position and began teaching in the fall of 2011.

Valley City State University (VCSU) is relatively small with about 1400 students. The Fisheries and Wildlife Program has about 80 students enrolled. With its small enrollment, the F&W program is unique in that we have small class sizes with an average of 14 students. This is beneficial because it allows us to be very hands on and take weekly field trips in most of our classes. This works very well for a guy like me that is very field work oriented. The small size also allows me to have personal relationships with all of my students.

During the summer, I also conduct stream fish surveys for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. Since 2015, my students and I have sampled throughout North Dakota and have



developed a substantial database of current fish populations.

Although I grew up in Louisiana and have lived in numerous states, Texas will always be home. I do miss the fish diversity that is found in Texas. A few years ago, my desire to get back to Texas led me to develop a spring class for a weeklong field trip to Texas. During our first trip, we took students to The Big Thicket National Preserve in East Texas and then spent a few days at Port Aransas. This was a great experience for my students, many of which had never observed a hardwood forest or visited a saltwater environment. The second trip took students to hill country streams, Matagorda Island, and snorkeling in the San Marcos River. Thankfully, Dusty McDonald (TPWD) volunteered to help with fish identification during our saltwater sampling and Brad Littrell (Biowest) helped with our musseling efforts in the San Marcos River. I hope to continue these field trips once the COVID crisis is over.

I know how valuable membership and participation in the American Fisheries Society is to both professionals and students. And so, throughout my career, I have continued my involvement and encouraged my student's participation. I first joined the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in spring 2012 and have served as President Elect, President, and as chair and member of the Awards and Nominations committee for several years. I also attend national meetings whenever possible and encourage students to attend. Our student's involvement led to the establishment of the VCSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society a few years ago. This has greatly increased their participation in educational professional activities.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Texas Chapter for providing me with my initial exposure to the American Fisheries Society. As a student, the Texas Chapter was extremely supportive and really made a difference for me. I would specifically like to thank Dave Terre for his work supporting student scholarships! I was the recipient of several TCAFS scholarship awards that made an extreme difference in my life.

INSIDE "WHERE ARE THEY NOW"

This series was established 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 Casey Williams who won best student fisheries presentation in 2004.

If you want to hear from a particular past student member, let us know and we'll try to track them down. If you have suggestions to make this series better, please let us know!

COMMITTEE
SERVICE
OPPORTUNITIES

TCAFS ISSUES COMMITTEE

BY KEVIN MAYES, ISSUES COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Issues Committee of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society identifies issues relating to aquatic resources, professional ethics, and the environment that are of importance to the mission of the Chapter or Society. The charge to the Committee is to solicit issues for consideration from the membership, another committee, or the Chapter; to recommend resolutions; and to respond to requests for information on issues from the Society or other entities as directed by the Chapter President. Issue selection criteria, steps, and possible actions are outlined in [TCAFS Procedural Handbook](#). If you interested in serving on the Committee please contact Kevin Mayes, Issues Committee Chair, at kevin.mayes@tpwd.texas.gov.



2020 OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER AWARDS

BY MICHELE NATIONS, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Giving out the awards for the Outstanding Fisheries Worker is always an honor for me to be in the presence of the illustrious recipients, and this year Dan Daugherty and I were proud to help the Chapter recognize some truly outstanding individuals and teams. I am also thankful for the people who took the time to nominate them.

Fisheries Administration – Craig Bonds, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Craig is currently the Director of Inland Fisheries and recently worked with the department leadership, and others, to achieve "salary parity" with other resource divisions. We want to recognize Craig for his leadership in finding a solution to this long-term problem. Through his efforts, they were able to save additional costs, create efficiencies, and provide new leadership opportunities for field-based staff within our division, which provided funding to support new career tracks for senior scientists and managers within the division. Craig's optimism for the future is both positive and inspiring to many employees.



Fisheries Education – Dr. Delbert Gatlin, Texas A & M University

For over 30 years, Dr. Delbert Gatlin has taught courses in Aquaculture, Aquatic Animal Nutrition, Disease Management in Fisheries at Texas A & M University. During his long and distinguished career in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Faculty of Nutrition Science, he has served as major advisor to 30 PhD students and 32 Master's students, all of whom advanced to successful careers in fisheries-related professions. In addition, Dr. Gatlin has directed the research and trained hundreds of undergraduate students who served as technicians and interns at the Aquaculture Research and Teaching Facility at TAMU. He has a reputation as an effective and trusted advisor and has a distinguished record of accomplishment in fish nutrition research and its application to aquaculture. His dedication has provided outstanding teaching and mentoring for the benefit of hundreds of fisheries students.



TCAFS 2020
OUTSTANDING
FISHERIES
WORKER
AWARDS

Continued

TCAFS 2020 OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER AWARDS

2020 Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards, Continued

Fisheries Education – Dr. Bart Durham, Lubbock Christian University

Dr. Durham helped launch the Natural Resources, Conservation and Ecology Program, an undergraduate program at Lubbock Christian University, which provides students with a broad background in natural resources management and conservation with specific emphasis in ecology, wildlife and fisheries management, conservation biology, and environmental science. It

offers unique hands-on opportunities in outdoor lab activities and scientific research. While teaching ten subject matters, Dr. Durham also fosters student participation in scientific research, such as examining the effects of treated wastewater on municipal water supplies in the Wichita Falls area.



Fisheries Management – John Findeisen, TPWD Inland Fisheries

For the past 23 years, John Findeisen has taken pride in his work and embraces the TPWD fisheries mission, working tirelessly for the anglers and boaters of Texas. As Team Lead for the Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Team, John successfully plans and implements management efforts by working closely with partners and cooperating with numerous river authorities; municipal water districts; local, state and federal agencies; and public and private landowners. John has also worked with universities and partners with them to help find new treatment methods for the control of Giant Salvinia. Serving on multiple Inland Fisheries committees, John has joined forces with other talented key-players, to combat invasive species across the state and promote awareness through outreach campaigns.



Fisheries Research – Nathan G. Smith, TPWD Heart of the Hills Research Science Center

Over the last year, Nate has been an extremely productive researcher in many respects. He authored or co-authored 15 conference presentations and 8 peer-reviewed manuscripts that have been accepted in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Journal of Applied Ichthyology, and Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. In addition, he managed or co-managed an additional five ongoing research projects. His leadership and collaborative efforts in projects aimed at the understanding of population dynamics, movement, habitat use, recruitment, and population genetics of Alligator Gar and Guadalupe Bass have been instrumental in furthering science-based management of these fisheries in Texas.



TCAFS 2020
OUTSTANDING
FISHERIES
WORKER
AWARDS

Fisheries Technical Support – Doug Knabe, San Antonio River Authority

Doug Knabe is a Watershed Monitoring Scientist with the San Antonio River Authority who developed an Excel-based field data collection method that has streamlined the data analysis and management processes. This innovative approach to data collection has reduced the time required to fully process data from field to submission by an estimated 90-120 hours per year, which has allowed SARA to expand their work outside of routine water quality and biological monitoring events to focus on additional research priorities. This new method supports the conservation and management of freshwater resources in the San Antonio River Basin. Doug has also taken the opportunity to share this new data collection tool with many of his colleagues who collect water quality biological data for the TCEQ's Clean Rivers Program.

Fisheries Student – Vaclav Alex Sotola, Texas State University

Vaclav Alex Sotola has accomplished much as a PhD student in the Aquatic Resources and Integrative Biology Program at Texas State University. Alex has authored or co-authored 10 peer-reviewed publications and 29 professional presentations, primarily at AFS conferences. While at Texas State, Alex's research involves hybridization issues with the Prairie Chub, which is a candidate species for listing by the US Fish and Wildlife Services, movement and habitat associations of the Prairie Chub; radiation and dispersal pathways of the Speckled Chub, Emerald Shiner, and Roundnose Minnow complexes; preservation effects on morphology of small fishes; and flood effects on abundance and survival of state-listed mussel species. Alex's research contributions will inform zoogeography of Texas fishes and conservation efforts of stream biota and their habitats.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Steve Bardin, Texas Pro Lake Management

As a private fisheries biologist with his company, Texas Pro Lake Management, Steven Bardin has also been active with the Texas Brigades as the camp coordinator of Bass Brigades for nearly 5 years. And in addition to being an active educator in Texas Brigades, he has been a supporter and active member in other fisheries-related organizations such as the TCAFS Pond Management Committee and the Texas Aquatic Plant Society. Steven has also managed social media blogs and written popular press articles through Wired2Fish, highlighting various topics in angling, fisheries management, and fish ecology, which have gained a great following. He is currently teaching Ichthyology at Tarleton State University.



Continued

TCAFS 2020 OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER AWARDS

2020 Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards, Continued

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Nicole Carpenter, TPWD volunteer and seasonal employee

Nicole Carpenter has served as a regular volunteer and seasonal employee at the A. E. Wood State Fish Hatchery over the past two years following completion of her Masters in fish parasitology at Texas State University. Nicci has been integral in the hatchery by intensifying and improving fish health monitoring through her meticulous work ethic and willingness to train other staff. Early detection of parasite and bacterial infections increases the effectiveness of treatment. She has become an invaluable asset to the hatchery, applying her skillset and attention to detail to improve hatchery operations and the quality of fish stocked into Texas waterbodies.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Todd Engeling, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Todd Engeling, TPWD Hatchery Branch Chief, is an asset to the A. E. Wood Hatchery's production sustainability and to the TPWD hatchery program. Todd is a very valuable resource to all TPWD hatcheries in maintaining up-to-date equipment and accessing current technology, as well as broodstock replacement, broodstock disease testing, tracking down permits, and procuring stocking vehicles in order to help complete production goals. Due to his years of experience working in TPWD hatcheries, he understands the time-sensitive nature of fish production and equipment requests. His help, knowledge of funding streams, and awareness when difficult situations arise defines a critical portion of his position.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Timothy W. Birdsong, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Tim Birdsong is the TPWD Habitat Conservation Branch Chief who oversees Aquatic Invasive Species Management, River Studies, Natural Resources Damage Assessment, and Resources Permitting and Consultations. In addition to managing this diverse group, he is also one of the editors for the AFS book entitled *Multi-species and Watershed Approaches to Freshwater Fish Conservation*. Of the book's 28 chapters, 11 chapters were coauthored by 21 TPWD staff members from Coastal Fisheries, Inland Fisheries, State Parks, and Wildlife divisions. Another of his publications was finalized recently: the 2019 Annual Report for the Guadalupe Bass Restoration Initiative, which profiles the litany of generational and transformative conservation projects completed through TPWD's partnership to restore and preserve the State Fish of Texas.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Stephen Curtis and Stephanie Parker (George)

From 2017 to 2019, Stephen Curtis and Stephanie George Parker co-chaired the Publicity/Exhibits Committee of the Texas Chapter. For one of the most difficult committee assignments, their charge was to bring awareness to Chapter activities, solicit exhibitors and sponsors for the Texas Chapter meetings, as well as seek donations for fundraising and orchestrate an auction, raffles, and prize giveaways. They did this with contagious enthusiasm and dogged persistence and determination, resulting in substantial monetary contributions to support the operations of the Chapter. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.



Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – San Antonio River Authority Aquatic Biologist Team

Shaun Donovan, shown accepting the award, Chris Vaughn, Douglas Knabe, Larry Larralde, and Karen Sablan are the San Antonio River Authority team of aquatic biologists who have been instrumental in the conservation and management of freshwater resources in the San Antonio River Basin.

Shaun, Chris, Doug, Larry, and Karen conduct routine water quality and biological monitoring events to support the Texas Clean Rivers Program and perform biological surveys of fish, mussels, and benthic macroinvertebrates throughout the Basin for a wide variety of projects. They were instrumental in the repatriation of Guadalupe Bass in the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River and are presently working towards re-establishing mussels and several non-game fish species there as well. All 5 members of this team are passionate about the San Antonio River which is evident in their hard work and dedication to preserve this resource for the people of Texas.



Shaun, Chris, Doug, Larry, and Karen conduct routine water quality and biological monitoring events to support the Texas Clean Rivers Program and perform biological surveys of fish, mussels, and benthic macroinvertebrates throughout the Basin for a wide variety of projects. They were instrumental in the repatriation of Guadalupe Bass in the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River and are presently working towards re-establishing mussels and several non-game fish species there as well. All 5 members of this team are passionate about the San Antonio River which is evident in their hard work and dedication to preserve this resource for the people of Texas.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Possum Kingdom Hatchery Team, TPWD Inland Fisheries

The Possum Kingdom Hatchery Striped Bass team consists of Neil Pugliese, the Region 2 Hatchery Regional Program Director; Ryan Rogers, PK hatchery manager; and the PK hatchery staff (Courtney Thompson, Bob Kaspar, Shane Griffin, and Brandy Thompson). The hatchery team received a special supplemental stocking request to culture and raise striped bass fingerlings to be stocked into Lake Livingston. In an attempt to increase recruitment into the population, stockings were delayed until spring flows had subsided in the Trinity River. The team deserves this special recognition award because they all went above and beyond to fulfill the nonstandard request of producing advanced fingerling striped bass. The extended grow-out period required the increase of pond space assigned to striped bass, the increase water usage from the Brazos River Authority allotment, and the procurement of feeds to meet the dietary demands of growing the fish from the regular request of 1.5 to 6 inches. The regional director coordinated with the other 4 TPWD hatcheries (A. E. Wood, Dundee, John D. Parker East Texas Fish Hatchery, and the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center) to obtain the necessary manpower required for harvesting and transporting the 41 truckloads within a 3-week period.

**TCAFS 2020
OUTSTANDING
FISHERIES
WORKER
AWARDS**

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

AQUATIC EDUCATORS WADE INTO ONLINE WATERS

KAREN MARKS, AREA PAST PRESIDENT AND TPWD AQUATIC EDUCATION MANAGER

The Aquatic Resources Education Association (AREA) held its national biennial conference online Oct 8th. The week-long in-person conference was originally scheduled to be held in Rapid City, SD this week, where the weather was beautiful, and the fish were biting. Unfortunately, COVID punted our meeting to Zoom, where members from across the nation still joined the fun.

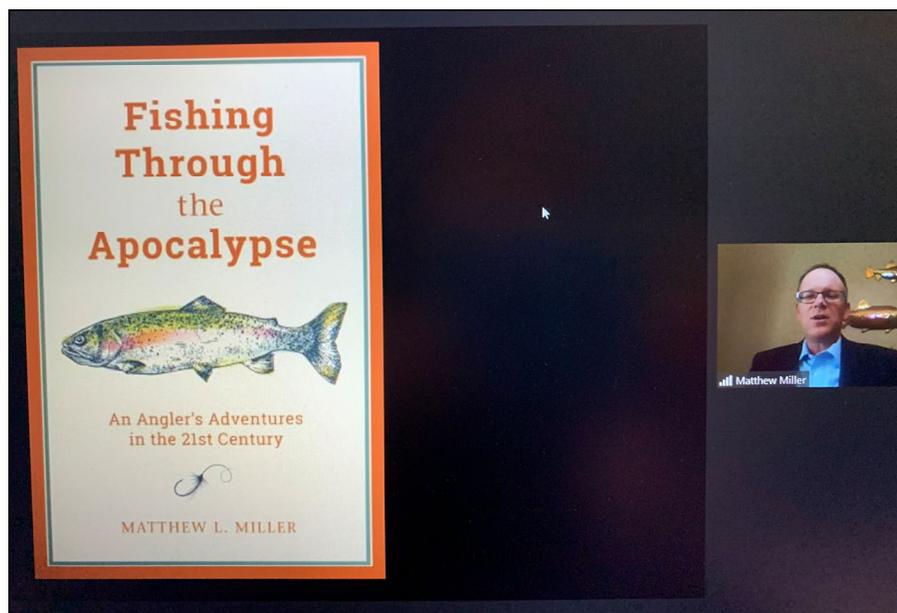
The keynote speaker was Matthew Miller, Director of Science Communications for The Nature Conservancy and editor of the [Cool Green Science blog](#). He is also the author of the book, *Fishing Through the Apocalypse: An Angler's Adventures in the 21st Century*.

Matt spoke about fisheries and connecting people to the outdoors through fishing, helping people find urban places to fish, and connecting “foodies” to the sport. His current personal goal is to catch a fish in all 50 states – Texas is still on his bucket list, but hopefully not for long!

AREA recently celebrated its 25th year anniversary. Who knew you could get paid to teach fishing and that a whole organization exists to support the sport?!

AREA Student membership is only \$10 per year, regular membership is \$25 per year. Join online at www.areanet.org. We encourage students to join the organization and apply for the Student Scholarship to attend the conference where you can meet and network with state and federal agency colleagues. We plan to reschedule the full conference in South Dakota in the fall of 2021, and are planning the 2022 conference for the east coast.

Contact TPWD for information on becoming a [TPWD Certified Angler Education Instructor](#).



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 28 2020

By Natalie Goldstrohm, Secretary-Treasurer

EX COM MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 2:33 pm by Kirk Winemiller.

Members Present: Dan Daugherty, Kirk Winemiller, Dakus Geeslin, Natalie Goldstrohm, Lynn Wright, Alice Best, Dave Terre, Sarah Haas, Kevin Mayes, Matt Troia, Greg Cummings, Shaun Donovan, Steven Bardin, Josh Perkin, and Tommy Johnson

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Natalie Goldstrohm

President's Report (Kirk Winemiller):

- Need 2 positions filled (Awards, Publicity/Exhibits). Steven Bardin has volunteered to be co-chair of the Publicity/Exhibits committee. If anyone knows someone that would be interested in the awards chair, please reach out to Kirk Winemiller.
- Update of bylaws: AFS has unanimously accepted the bylaw amendments including the 2 newsletters/year (summer, winter) and written notification from AFS (Doug Austen) is pending.

President-Elect (Dakus Geeslin):

- Plans for 2021 meeting with pandemic contingencies. After some discussion weighing the pros and cons of planning for an in-person meeting, it was determined that it was in the best interest of the Chapter to move to a virtual meeting format for the 2021 annual meeting. The uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, possible travel restrictions, and initial cost of an in-person meeting weighed heavily on the decision.
- A Virtual Committee was formed (Dakus Geeslin, Sarah Haas, Alice Best, Dave Buzan, Shaun Donovan, Natalie Goldstrohm, and pending others). It is important to continue the momentum of the TCAFS meeting even if it must be virtual. The meetings are important for student engagement and having the opportunities to present their work. Many meeting modifications were discussed such as how to have poster sessions, student/mentor meetings, auctions, and cost. The Virtual Committee will begin exploring options.

Past President (Dan Daugherty): No new information to present.

Secretary-Treasurer (Natalie Goldstrohm):

- 2019 taxes have been filed,
- all outstanding Continuing Education sessions from the SDAFS 2019 meeting have been paid,
- email was sent out regarding the AFS code of conduct, and
- be aware of potential fraudulent emails asking for money or bank account information.

Awards (Michele Nations): Michele is stepping down as chair of the committee. One article that deals with the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year awards was accidentally omitted from the last newsletter and will be put into the next newsletter.

History (Michele Nations): nothing to report

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright):

- There are a few leads on continuing education sessions for the 2021 meeting. As we move into planning a virtual meeting we must decide how many continuing education sessions should be planned.

Continued



EX COM MEETING MINUTES

EXCOM Meeting Minutes, Continued

Editorial (Alice Best/ Dave Buzan):

- A call for papers will be sent out in September 2020 for the 2021 meeting.
- All the 2020 proceedings are complete and available online. Thanks Sarah for your assistance.

Endowment (Dave Terre):

- The financial markets have fallen recently associated with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the endowment account. Financial markets have since increased and the endowment account is still in good shape.
- Dave continues to reach out to potential partners regarding student scholarships funds.

Internet (Sarah Haas):

- Will post the bylaws on the TCAFS website once notification is received from AFS
- Will add Steven Bardin as co-chair for the Publicity/Exhibits committee.

Issues (Kevin Mayes):

- Created a writeup about the issues committee and will have Michele send it via listserv to help recruit a committee.

Membership (Michele Nations): nothing to report

Newsletter (Matt Troia):

- The last newsletter was sent out in May and plans to have the next newsletter sent in October.

Nominating (Greg Cummings):

- There are some possible candidates for the secretary/treasurer and President-elect positions.
- Would like to have candidates finalized by early September.

Pond Management (Greg Binion):

- Revisions on section one have been complete and beginning revisions on the other sections.

Publicity/Exhibits (Shaun Donovan):

- Steven Bardin has joined the Publicity/Exhibits committee.
- Most of the businesses that are traditionally approached for donations for the auction and raffle are small businesses that have been hardest hit by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns.
- Soliciting donations might be harder this year and having a virtual auction might impact the total funds raised. The committee will look into options for having virtual exhibitors.

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler):

- Plans to solicit for scholarship applications in the way it was done last year, by emailing the representatives.
- Will work with Michele for posting announcement for applications on the email listserv, Facebook, website, etc. The wording may need to be altered, especially if the meeting is going to be completely virtual, but there is time to work that out.
- Will need to know how many scholarships we are able to give out. Last year there were 9 recipients at \$1,500 each.

EXCOM Meeting Minutes, Continued

Student Outreach (Josh Perkin):

- There are many uncertainties for students during this time including how to navigate activities that were planned for the fall semester.
- Many activities and recruiting events have been scaled back.
- Will explore options for the student/mentor lunch for the 2021 meeting.

Student Subunit Updates:

TX A&M University: no report

Tarleton State University: Tommy Johnson

- Subunit has been working with Steven Bardin as their faculty advisor.
- Tarleton State University will have many restrictions on the activities that can be done in the upcoming school year.
- The group is still exploring ways to benefit their members and are considering reaching out to fisheries professionals for virtual meetings/presentation and reaching out to other TCAFS subunits.

Texas Tech University: no report

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi: no report

Old business: none

New Business:

- \$1,000 contribution to the Texas Brigades camp will be made (\$500.00 for Bass Brigades and \$500.00 for Coastal Brigades).

Adjourn: Kirk Winemiller made the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 PM.

EX COM MEETING MINUTES

TCAFS MEMBERSHIP

JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER!

By Michele Nations, Membership Committee Chair

The TCAFS had 266 members here at the end of 2020. The year is still young, and the membership total is up to 255. Let's keep it growing!

Membership is on an annual basis and expires December 31 of each year. Dues are \$12.00 for professionals and \$5.00 for students. In order to qualify for student membership, you must be currently enrolled as a student. We would also like to encourage your membership in The Society (AFS).

If you attended the 2020 TCAFS meeting in Waco, the registration included your 2020 membership dues. If you still need to pay for your 2020 TCAFS membership dues, you can either pay for them using the online form or by mailing the paper form.

The membership form can be found at the following website:

<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-membership/>

If you would like to pay using a credit card, the online will automatically direct you to make a payment with PayPal. Or, if you would like to pay by check, please make payment to TCAFS and send your payment and membership form to:

Natalie Goldstrohm
5325 N 3rd St.
Abilene, TX 79603

For questions concerning TCAFS membership or membership payment, please contact the TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer, Natalie Goldstrohm, at natalie.goldstrohm@tpwd.texas.gov.

Also, if your email address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the Chapter newsletter and receive announcements from the TCAFS listserv.

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

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.

TCAFS NEWSLETTER

Editor—Matthew Troia
matthew.troia@utsa.edu



**TCAFS
BEHIND THE
SCENES:**

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSONS**

BEHIND THE SCENES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT..... Kirk Winemiller
PRESIDENT-ELECT..... Dakus Geeslin
PAST PRESIDENT Dan Daugherty
SECRETARY-TREASURER Natalie Goldstrohm

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS..... Brittany Chesser
CONTINUING EDUCATION Lynn Wright
EDITORIAL Alice Best & Dave Buzan
ENDOWMENTS Dave Terre
HISTORY Michele Nations
INTERNET..... Sarah Haas & John Taylor
ISSUES..... Kevin Mayes
MEMBERSHIP Michele Nations
NOMINATING..... Greg Cummings
POND MANAGEMENT Greg Binion
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS..... Shawn Donovan & Steve Bardin
SCHOLARSHIP Jennifer Butler
STUDENT OUTREACH..... Josh Perkin

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matt Troia
matthew.troia@utsa.edu