

# The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

May 2021 Newsletter  
Volume 47, Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

As my favorite sportscaster, Harry Caray, would say "Hello again, everybody! It's a beautiful day for baseball." In addition to my favorite past time, the spring season in Texas is perfectly suited for any of your favorite outdoor activities. I hope you all have been able to take advantage of the spring weather and reconnect with family and friends in a safe way. As our country continues to open up, I hope you will remain vigilant in our fight against the COVID-19 virus and take all the necessary precautions to keep your family, friends, and community members safe and healthy.

As we continue to manage through the rapidly changing environment brought on by the pandemic, I am frequently reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of this community of fisheries professionals and students. The strength, determination, and adaptive capacity of our members was on display within the last year as we planned, coordinated, and hosted our very first, and hopefully last, virtual only Texas Chapter annual meeting. The virtual planning committee executed the virtual meeting plan flawlessly. A huge shoutout goes to our past president, Dr. Kirk Winemiller and past secretary/treasurer Natalie Goldstrohm for their service and leadership to our Chapter. Other virtual planning team members that deserve special recognition include Dr. Sarah Haas, Alice Best, Shaun Donovan, Dr. Tiffany Hopper, Hanna Bauer, and John Taylor. We simply couldn't have pulled this off without your innovation and dedication. Our committee chairs also did a great job in their various roles and responsibilities to



Dakus Geeslin, TCAFS President.

support our chapter meeting. Thank you all! I'm proud to be on your team. It was an honor and privilege to work alongside you all. As much as I enjoyed the virtual meeting given the circumstances, I share Tim's sentiments he expressed in the following article that I'm also looking forward to an in-person meeting next year. I welcome both Tim Birdsong as president-elect and Sarah Robertson as secretary/treasurer to the team. I've worked with both Tim and Sarah for years and know we are in good hands with these two serving as chapter officers.

Moving into the spring and summer and into the next phase of the pandemic, I am hopeful that we as a profession and society can get back to some of our activities, habits, and practices. I sure miss the days of being able to freely attend large conferences, sporting events, or bluegrass music festivals. Like many of you I'm sure this past year



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's message .....	1
President-Elect's message .....	2
Scholarship recipients .....	4
Student awards winners .....	7
2020 best presentation awards .....	8
2021 best presentation awards .....	10
Outstanding fisheries workers .....	12
Committee update .....	14
Business meeting minutes .....	15
TCAFS membership .....	18
TCAFS purpose and goals .....	19
Behind the scenes .....	20

### ITEMS OF NOTE

- TCAFS memberships can be completed online now! Click [here](#) to start or renew a membership today!

## TCAFS 2021 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## PRESIDENT- ELECTS MESSAGE

has brought on a sense of loss from not being able to gather in person and draw energy from the crowd of fans or reconnect with friends and colleagues. Whether we like it or not, the pandemic has changed our world and the way we function within it. Many aspects of our lives will not be the same as they once were. It will be challenging to adjust to new ways of doing things but also comforting to welcome back familiar ways of life. However, as we experienced in planning the 2021 virtual meeting, our community of fisheries professionals is highly adaptive and nimble. In biology and ecology, adaptation refers to the process of adjusting in

behavior, physiology, or structure to become more suited to an environment. The future will surely require us to be adaptive and flexible as we look for ways to thrive in challenging environments. I encourage you all to continue to be adaptive in your lives and lean in to help others as we acclimate to different work environments, methods of communication, and develop strategies to maintain our vital connections to one another, virtually or in-person. We have some great ideas and plans to reconnect in person for our 2022 TCAFS annual meeting. I look forward to seeing you all again real soon. Until then, happy trails!

## PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY TIM BIRDSONG

I'm obviously biased, but I'm constantly struck by the strong character and resolve of fisheries professionals. We share an unwavering commitment and deep-rooted passion to conserve wild things and wild places, to ensure the science-based management and stewardship of fisheries resources, to create opportunities for anglers, paddlers, boaters, and others to get outdoors and reconnect with nature, family, and friends, and to help the public recognize and experience the quali-

ty of life benefits associated with our fisheries resources. To quote one of my favorite singer-songwriters, Guy Clark, "that's the kind of stuff I like to be around," and I am incredibly thankful to have found/made fisheries conservation my chosen profession.

I've now dedicated more than two decades of my life to the conservation and management of fisheries resources (as a student and professional), which has been incredibly



Tim Birdsong (beardless and hatless version, center of back row) with editors, authors, and supporters of the AFS book, "Multispecies and Watershed Approaches to Freshwater Fish Conservation" at a related networking event held at the AFS Annual Meeting in Reno, NV (2019).

fulfilling due in large part to the network of passionate and committed professionals who I've had the opportunity to build lasting friendships and meaningful collaborations. That network includes a diverse group of resource managers, researchers, administrators, landowners, anglers, paddlers, educators, philanthropists, and advocates who I consider true conservation heroes, luminaries, and mentors. A shared attribute is their hopeful, optimistic perspective on conservation and their desire to make a positive and lasting difference for current and future generations. Their lives and careers have offered figurative road maps that daily help inform my outlook and decisions.

In reflecting on my professional network, I recognize that many (if not the majority) of those relationships, friendships, and collaborations were formed at meetings of the American Fisheries Society (i.e., chapter, division, section, committee, parent society) but usually not in conference rooms (and definitely not during virtual conferences). Conference plenaries, symposia, and technical sessions have offered opportunities for exposure to research projects and conservation initiatives being undertaken by colleagues throughout Texas and nationally, but those generally represented one-way communications if not supplemented with opportunities for informal, unstructured, and untimed conversations. Although not fully apparent to me until this pandemic, I now recognize the critical importance of providing opportunities in a conference setting for professionals to engage in relaxed and unscripted dialogue, which can progress into new professional connections, project-specific brainstorming, and meaningful long-term collaborations. Speaking from my own experiences, new professional connections are often made during impromptu meet-and-greets in the

exhibit hall, while tagging along with mentors and colleagues on a lunch or dinner outing, over breaks while attending a continuing education course, during a beach cleanup or other service project, amid hallway conversations at the conclusion of a technical session, while chatting on the shuttle bus in route to the annual AFS Spawning Run, or while standing in line for refreshments at nightly conference networking events. Obviously, these types of interactions were limited to nonexistent during the pandemic, which we hope to rectify in 2022.

As we look ahead to the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting, I am incredibly excited to reconnect in person and be reenergized professionally. At present, we plan to hold the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting in person at a resort and conference center in the Texas Hill Country during the early February timeframe (shortly following the Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for January 20-23, 2022 in Charleston, SC). Our desire is to arrange an all-inclusive, onsite, retreat-style atmosphere with plentiful opportunities to reconnect, socialize, refresh, build, and expand your professional networks. This includes tentative plans to launch the inaugural TCAFS Annual Spawning Run (late afternoon trail run), half-day field trips, a half-day chapter-wide service project, a fish conservation film/movie night (with popcorn and refreshments), nightly riverside socials (possibly with live music), late afternoon hiking, fishing, and paddling options, and a family-style BBQ and other group meals.

Stay tuned as we formally confirm and announce the location and dates for the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting. It promises to be an event and experience you will not want to miss. Until then, stay safe, fellow fish squeezers, and I look forward to reconnecting with you soon!

## TCAFS 2021

### PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE



TCAFS 2021  
STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS

## 2021 TCAFS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—UNDERGRADUATES

*Harry Tennison Scholarship—*

**Jansen Ivie** is from Brock, Texas, and is a senior at Texas Tech University where he is working on a B.S. in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Fisheries Biology. He is currently working on a project that examines patterns of piscivory by invasive Brown trout in tributaries of the Jemez River. His study will help to better understand how non-native Brown trout affect native fishes. Jansen is interested in salmonid fisheries with a focus on restoration, stream ecology, and invasive species. He is planning on working toward a M.S. starting in the fall of 2021.



*Harry Tennison Scholarship—*

**Tommy Johnson** grew up in Willis, Texas, where family and friends got him hooked on fishing and the outdoors at an early age. After attending Texas Brigades in high school, he developed a passion for fisheries and wildlife conversation. He is a senior at Tarleton State University where he will earn a degree in Wildlife Sustainability and Ecosystem Sciences with concentrations in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, as well as Biology. Upon graduation, he hopes to work on a master's degree in a fisheries-related field and to continue volunteer work in fisheries education with groups like Fishing's Future, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Bass Brigades.



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—MASTERS



### *Harry Tennison*

**Scholarship—Connor Gallagher** grew up outside of Louisville, Kentucky, but his love of the water led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in Marine Science at Eckerd College in Florida. He spent time working offshore as a biologist for Florida Fish and Wildlife before joining Dr. Richard Kline's lab at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) to pursue a master's degree. His thesis work utilizes acoustic telemetry and an autonomous surface vehicle to examine the movement patterns and habitat usage of both common snook (*Centropomus undecimalis*) and fat snook (*Centropomus parallelus*) within the Bahia Grande in South Texas. In addition, he is collecting life history data to better characterize the South Texas snook population. After graduation, Connor hopes to pursue a career in fisheries at the state or federal level.



### *Harry Tennison*

**Scholarship—Blake Thornton** is a second-year master's student studying biology at Angelo State University (ASU). Blake's thesis work is focused on fish health. He is examining the parasite communities of white crappie in four bodies of water in and around San Angelo, Texas, and comparing the age-specific rates of infection. This work will provide the first record of the parasites of white crappie in the Concho Valley and will provide valuable information regarding host age and parasite community association. Blake is highly interested in fisheries biology and management and volunteers often with Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries in North and West Texas. He hopes to

begin a career in fisheries management with TPWD Inland Fisheries or a Texas based pond and lake management company following his graduation from ASU in May of 2021.



**TCAFS Student Scholarship—Christa Edwards** is a second year master's student at Texas State University (TSU). Christa has been studying spring-associated fishes throughout Texas, and her thesis focuses on the habitat associations, specifically vegetation associations of the Fountain Darter in the San Marcos and Comal Rivers. In the future, Christa plans to continue her career in fisheries by researching endemic and imperiled non-game fishes throughout Texas.

TCAFS 2021

STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS



## TCAFS 2021

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

#### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—DOCTORAL

*TCAFS Student Scholarship*—**Sara McGillewie** is earning her Ph.D. at the University of North Texas with Dr. David Hoeinghaus. Her research focuses on the socio-ecological dynamics of suburban succession in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. For this work, Sara is generating a GIS hub to aggregate relevant social and environmental data. With this information, her dissertation will seek to investigate how developer, homeowner, and homeowner's association (HOA) decisions influence aquatic ecosystem function, resistance, and resilience. After completing her PhD at the University of North Texas, Sara will seek a post-doctoral research position and will build a career in aquatic ecosystems and fisheries research.



*TCAFS Student Scholarship*—**Emily Meese** is pursuing her Ph.D. in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University at Galveston with Dr. Dave Wells. Emily's dissertation uses isotopic methods to characterize food web structure and dynamics in Matagorda Bay, Texas. Her dissertation uses a bottom-up approach by quantifying isotope signatures of all primary producers to understand linkages across upper trophic levels. Emily is excited to pursue a career in fisheries science and continue researching marine fisheries in an academia position.



## 2021 TCAFS STUDENT AWARDS WINNERS

### CLARK HUBBS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD



The 2020 TCAFS Clark Hubbs Student Research Award was awarded to **Hayden Roberts** in Dr. Perkin's lab at Texas A & M University. Hayden's master's thesis project assesses the spatial ecology of Alligator Gar in the lower Brazos River Basin.

### OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER—STUDENT



The Outstanding Fisheries Worker in the Student category goes to **Christa Edwards**. Christa is an exceptional graduate student at Texas State University and on a trajectory to be an outstanding professional in the fisheries field. With a bachelor's of science in Marine Biology from the University of Tampa, Christa shifted her interests to freshwater systems and organisms. Currently, she is lead on five Texas fish-related research projects, assists on several other fish and mussel related research projects, successfully transitioned the ichthyology laboratory to an online delivery, and was in-

strumental in collecting the largest Silver Chub ever reported in the Wichita River.

## TCAFS 2021 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS



TCAFS 2020

PRESENTATION  
AND POSTER  
AWARD  
WINNERS

**BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—ORAL**

**Brittany Harried**  
University of North Texas

**Project title:**  
*Host selectivity and local environmental conditions determine cutaneous microbiome structure of North Texas stream fishes at the onset of drought*

**Co-authors:** Donald Walker and David Hoeinghaus

<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-meetings/2020-meeting-home-page/2020-podcasts-saturday/>

Graphic unavailable.

**BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—POSTER**

**Lauren Yancey**  
Texas A&M University

**Project title:**  
*Diel fluctuations in Comanche Springs Pupfish abundances in San Solomon Springs, Balmorhea State Park*

**Co-authors:** Joshua Perkin and Matthew Acre

## BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—ORAL

**Ryan King**  
Baylor University

**Project title:**  
*Low-level dissolved organic carbon subsidies drive a trophic upsurge in a boreal stream*

**Co-authors:** Caleb Robbins, Alyse Yeager, Stephen Cook, Robert Doyle, Jasmine Maurer, Coowe Walker, Jeffrey Back, and Dennis Whigham

[https://  
units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-  
meetings/2020-  
meeting-home-  
page/2020-podcasts-  
saturday/](https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-meetings/2020-meeting-home-page/2020-podcasts-saturday/)



## BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—POSTER

**Joshuah Perkin**  
Texas A&M University

**Project title:**  
*Conservation biogeography of headwater catfish in the United States*

Co-authors: Stephanie George Parker, Megan Bean, and Dijar Lutz-Carillo

TCAFS 2020  
PRESENTATION  
AND POSTER  
AWARD  
WINNERS



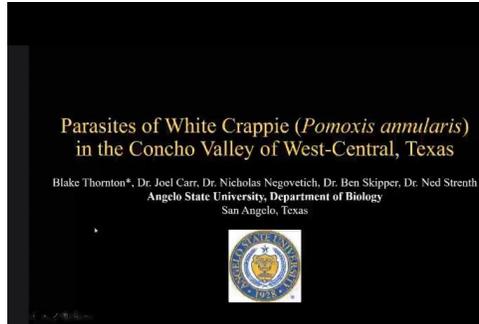
TCAFS 2021  
STUDENT  
PRESENTATION  
AND POSTER  
AWARD  
WINNERS

BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—ORAL

**Blake Thornton**  
Angelo State University

**Project title:**  
*Parasites of White Crappie (Pomoxis annularis) in the Concho Valley of West-Central, Texas*

[https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?tion=fncloud\\_front\\_request&id=7656&cmd=file&target=fls1\\_Qmxa2UgVGhvcM5ob24ubXA0](https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?tion=fncloud_front_request&id=7656&cmd=file&target=fls1_Qmxa2UgVGhvcM5ob24ubXA0)



BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION—POSTER

**Florian Kappen**  
Texas A&M University

**Project title:**  
*Megafish movement: Testing stream fish movement paradigms using alligator gar*

**Co-authors:** Joshua Perkin, Hayden Roberts, Maximilian Claus, Dan Daugherty, David Buckmeier, and Matthew Acre

**Megafish movement: Testing stream fish movement paradigms using alligator gar**  
Florian Kappen, Joshua S. Perkin, Maximilian Claus, Hayden Roberts, Matthew R. Acre, Daniel J. Daugherty, David L. Buckmeier

**Introduction**

- The restricted movement paradigm (RMP) posits that riverine fish populations consist of a stationary ( $\sigma_{st}$ ) and mobile ( $\sigma_{mo}$ ) component whose heterogeneous movement behaviors result in leptokurtic distributions of movement data (Fig. 1).
- The high peak in these leptokurtic distributions originates from a stationary component that does not move far, while a wide spread at the tails originates from the often smaller mobile component that moves much further.
- Despite application on a global scale, the RMP is not yet tested for megafish (i.e., fishes >10 kg in adulthood). Therefore, we explored the application of the RMP to alligator gar (Fig. 2).

We tested four hypotheses related to the RMP including (H1) presence of leptokurtosis, (H2) a diffuse spread like dispersal with seasonal variation, (H3) individual fish switching between stationary and mobile behaviors, and (H4) a general model for fish dispersal in rivers would predict alligator gar movement.

**Materials and Methods**

- We used previously published telemetry data collected from 42 alligator gar on the Lower Trinity River, Texas (Buckmeier et al. 2013) and analyzed dispersal (i.e., movement from tagging location) and displacement (i.e., movement from previous location).
- (H1) We tested for leptokurtosis using D'Agostino's test for normality and accepted H1 when leptokurtosis was present.
- (H2) We tested for increasing movement distances through time and variability with season for  $\sigma_{st}$  and  $\sigma_{mo}$  using the "Trimover" package in R. H2 was accepted if distances increased with time and showed seasonal variation.
- (H3) We classified individual fish per tracking event as stationary (movement <  $\sigma_{st}$ ) or mobile (movement >  $\sigma_{st}$ ) and accepted H3 if classifications varied.
- (H4) We compared observed movement components with predictions from Rautberger & Wolter (2014) and accepted H4 if confidence intervals overlapped.

**Figure 2:** Florian Kappen posing with a >7 foot alligator gar tagged for research.

[https://1fjduf35czd41a05pgltrtej-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/01/Kap-pen\\_Florian\\_TCAFS\\_2021.pdf](https://1fjduf35czd41a05pgltrtej-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/01/Kap-pen_Florian_TCAFS_2021.pdf)

**Megafish movement: Testing stream fish movement paradigms using alligator gar**  
Florian Kappen, Joshua S. Perkin, Maximilian Claus, Hayden Roberts, Matthew R. Acre, Daniel J. Daugherty, David L. Buckmeier

**Results**

- Leptokurtosis occurred in most of the tracking events (H1 supported, e.g., Fig. 3).
- Movement distances did not show a consistent increase through time (Fig. 4) and only the mobile component was related to season (H2 partially supported).
- Individual fish switched between stationary and mobile movement behaviors, suggesting mobility was not fixed (H3 supported).
- The predictive model for fish dispersal in rivers consistently over-predicted alligator gar movement because of the absence of diffuse spread (H4 rejected).

**Discussion and Conclusions**

- This study indicates that the RMP is applicable to a megafish species like the alligator gar, though general predictions of alligator gar movement remain elusive.
- Whereas dispersal in small bodied fishes is often characterized by a diffuse spread over time, this was not the case for alligator gar.
- We hypothesize that movements linking required habitats throughout different seasons better explain alligator gar movement. This was indicated by our results and in line with patterns observed in previous alligator gar movement studies.

**Acknowledgements and References**

This was funded in part by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Buckmeier et al. (2013). Alligator Gar movement and microhabitat use in the lower Trinity River, Texas. *PLoS ONE* 8(12): e82223. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0082223. Rautberger & Wolter (2014). Patterns and predictors of fish dispersal in rivers. *Fish & Fisheries* 15: 848-873.

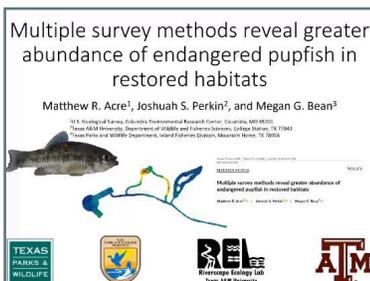
**BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—ORAL**

**Matthew Acre**  
United States Geological Survey

**Project title:**  
*Multiple survey methods reveal greater abundance of endangered pupfish in restored habitats*

**Co-authors: Joshua Perkin, Megan Bean**

[https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=fmcloud\\_front\\_request&id=7656&cmd=file&target=f1s1\\_TWfodGhldyBBY3JlLm1wNA](https://units.fisheries.org/tx/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=fmcloud_front_request&id=7656&cmd=file&target=f1s1_TWfodGhldyBBY3JlLm1wNA)

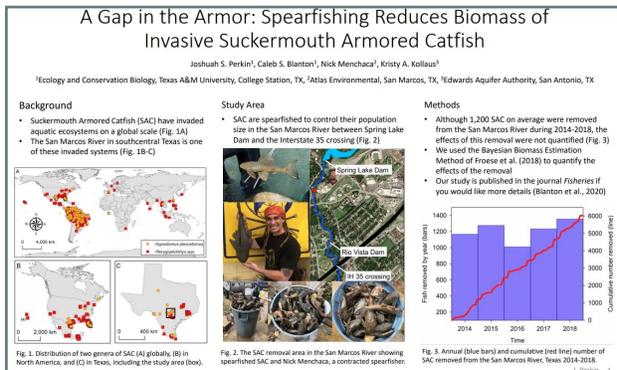


**BEST PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION—POSTER**

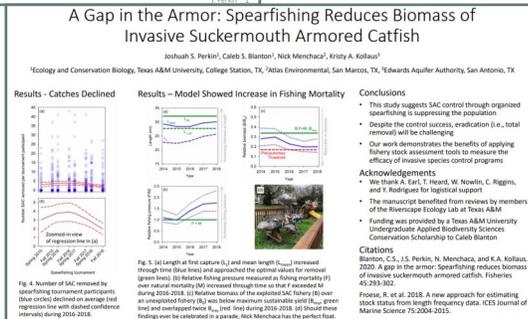
**Joshua Perkin**  
Texas A&M University

**Project title:**  
*A gap in the armor: Spearfishing reduces biomass of invasive suckermouth armored catfish*

**Co-authors: Caleb Blanton, Nick Menchaca, and Kristy Kollaus**



<https://1fjdudf35czd41a05pgltrtej-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/tx/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2021/01/TCAFS-2021-Perkin-et-al-Poster.pdf>



**TCAFS 2021**  
**PRESENTATION AND POSTER AWARD WINNERS**

TCAFS 2021  
OUTSTANDING  
FISHERIES  
WORKERS

## 2021 OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKERS

*Fisheries Management*—**Greg Binion** has worked in the realm of fisheries management for over fifteen years, twelve of which have been spent with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department as a biologist at the Corpus Christi Fisheries Management District Team in Mathis, Texas. Greg should be recognized for his ability to build partnerships with numerous entities focused on improving fish habitat and access to anglers. In between those efforts, Greg also makes time for his other passion, research; he is often called upon to assist with existing projects because of his creativity and his meticulous aptitude with editing. Other than his outstanding work ethic, Greg is probably best known for his always-calm and professional conduct, which is highly regarded amongst his team and his peers. It is because of all of these strengths that we feel that he has earned this year's award.



*Special Recognition*—**Charles Cruz** is a second generation TPWD employee, who has worked in the State's fish hatcheries as well as the San Angelo management office. One area where Charles excels is his welding and fabrication skills. Over the years he has made many improvements to boats and equipment in the San Angelo Inland Fisheries office, which includes many custom modifications to an electrofishing boat that has improved its function and that were completed with a high level of craftsmanship. More recently, he built a boat stocking system that reduces handling stress on stocked fish. Charles stands out from other technicians in his attention to detail and determination to make things as best he can. One thing I am certain of Charles: if he's going to build something, it's going to be done right. Additionally, he has been invaluable during kid fishing events. One event that comes to mind is the annual West Texas Rehab Camp where he always makes sure every kid gets the chance to catch a fish. Charles is a vital member of the San Angelo fisheries management team and one of the best fisheries technicians in TPWD.





*Special Recognition*—For over 33 years, **Ken Kurzawski** has been a stalwart leader in the management and conservation of Texas freshwater fisheries resources, with extraordinary contributions in fisheries policy. As Chief of Information and Regulations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries Division, Ken has advised fisheries managers and conservation biologists throughout the state on data-driven regulatory options that support the science-based management of recreational and commercial fisheries, imperiled nongame fishes, exotic species, freshwater fish habitats, and other topics to help achieve the Division’s mantra of “providing the best possible fishing opportunities while protecting and

enhancing freshwater resources.” Throughout his career, Ken has been actively engaged at all levels of the American Fisheries Society including President of the Texas Chapter in 2011, President of the AFS Fisheries Administration Section 2015-2017, and through service on the AFS Governing Board. With plans to retire in August 2021, Ken is well-deserving of special recognition from the Texas Chapter AFS for his unwavering commitment, sincere passion, and exemplary service within the fisheries profession.



*Special Recognition*—Since joining Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2013, **Monica McGarrity** has made extraordinary contributions in the management and conservation of fisheries and other aquatic resources through the development and im-

plementation of science-based strategies for mitigating the effects of aquatic invasive species. Monica conceived, designed, and implemented a litany of new education, outreach, prevention, monitoring, research and management programs that have helped establish a comprehensive aquatic invasive species management program for the state. One of her most noteworthy achievements was leading the development and implementation of one of the largest riparian invasive species control projects in the USA, which has now treated nearly 14,000 acres of salt cedar to restore habitats for two endangered fishes along 178 miles of the upper Brazos River. Monica also recently finalized and presented a comprehensive revision of the exotic aquatic species regulations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, which was unanimously adopted by the Commission. Monica is well-deserving of special recognition from the Texas Chapter AFS for her unwavering commitment, sincere passion, and exemplary service within the fisheries profession.

## TCAFS 2021 OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKERS

## TCAFS 2021

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*New volunteers for the Membership Committee. The committee is now represented by:*

**Michele Nations, Chair**

Retired from TPWD  
Listserv Contact

**Haley Kokel**

*Fish on Aquatic Plants*  
Social Media Guru

**Stephen Curtis**

TPWD, *River Studies Program*  
Membership Outreach

*Thank you and welcome to Haley and Stephen!*

### POND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*The Pond Management has new members. The committee is now represented by:*

**Greg Binion, Chair**

Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

**Steve Bardin**

Texas Pro Lake Management

**Sean Deery**

Blessed Bayou Wildlife & Fisheries Consulting

*Thank you and welcome to Steve and Sean!*

### STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Several TCAFS members have graciously volunteered to serve on the Student Outreach Committee. The committee is now represented by:*

**Josh Perkin, Chair**

Texas A&M University

**Scott Collins**

Texas Tech University

**Levi Sparks**

Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater District

**Margaret Stadig**

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

*Thank you and welcome to Scott, Levi, and Margaret!*

# 2021 TCAFS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## **Call to Order & Motion to Approve Agenda – Kirk Winemiller, President**

- Call to order at 2:18 pm. By Kirk Winemiller. Kirk made a motion to accept, Dakus Geeslin seconded, motion approved.
- Determination of Quorum – Yes by Natalie Goldstrohm, Secretary/Treasurer
- Motion to Accept 2020 Meeting Minutes –Kirk Winemiller made a motion to accept, Dakus Geeslin seconded, motion approved.

## **President’s Report – Kirk Winemiller**

- It was a pleasure to serve and is proud of our active chapter.
- Please join and become a member of TCAFS and AFS. Thanked Brian Murphy for joining the meeting on Wednesday during the welcome. Brian Murphy gave accolades to TCAFS and indicated that we had two times as many registrants as the North East Division meeting.
- TCAFS included the AFS code of conduct to TCAFS
- Goal to increase diversity at all AFS levels to reflect the population we serve and is very proud of the diversity of science that TCAFS showcases.

## **2021 Meeting Report – Dakus Geeslin, President-elect**

- Gave thanks to Kirk Winemiller for his service to TCAFS. And thanked the TCAFS leadership and TCAFS virtual planning committee.
- During the 2021 meeting there were 172 regular registrations and 63 student registrations (235 total)
- There was a large amount of diverse schools and groups that gave presentations during the meeting. There were 20 student talks and 14 professional talks (8 TPWD-Coastal fisheries, 1 USGS, and 5 TPWD-Inland Fisheries).
- Dakus would like to engage more people in joining TCAFS and would like to consider adopting a virtual option to the meetings in the future.

## **Secretary-Treasurer Report – Natalie Goldstrohm**

- The Chapter’s cash account balance as of 1/1/2020 was \$51,378.95. The Chapter’s income was \$39,840.73 for the year, and the expenses were \$33,907.76. A total of \$39,300.28 was transferred into the TCAFS endowment fund. The 12/31/20 ending balance was \$18,011.64.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Awards – Brittany Chesser**

- Thanked those that helped judge and reminded those to turn in the packet by close of business on Friday (2/5/2021)

### **History – Michele Nations**

- Michele would like to plan something for the 50th TCAFS anniversary. She is also planning on creating a 150 year AFS poster of TCAFS history for the Baltimore meeting.

### **Continuing Education – Lynn Wright**

- The Continuing Education Classes went well and were well attended. There were over 50 people signed up for the HIRE: Hiring Interviews & Resume Editing class and over 100 people signed up for the Hands-on data analyses in Excel from t-test to multivariate regression with one equation class.

### **Editorial – Alice Best/ Dave Buzan**

- There were 25 poster presentations and 35 oral presentations at the 2021 meeting.

### **Endowment – Dave Terre & Brian Van Zee**

- Dave took over the endowment chair in 2004. In 2020, the account has

# TCAFS 2021 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

## TCAFS 2021

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

grown from \$378K to \$450K. This was a good year for the Chapter and for the endowment accounts.

- Dave wanted to thank all of the contributions over the years from The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation. This group has given over \$212K and has helped the endowment account incredibly.
- Additionally, Dave wanted to recognize the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth for their continued partnership with TCAFS. Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth has provided several student scholarship funds over the years and provided funds for 4 student scholarships at the 2021 meeting. The other 3 scholarships were funded with endowment account money.
- Dave Terre will be stepping down from the Endowment Chair position and will be handing the chair to Brian Van Zee. Dakus officially instated Brian as the Endowment Chair position moving forward.

#### **Internet – Sarah Haas**

- Sarah will be working on uploading the presentation from the 2021 TCAFS Meeting to the TCAFS website but will remove the poster presentations.

#### **Membership – Michele Nations**

- Nothing to report besides the information provided by Dakus concerning the registrations, which would include memberships. Michele wanted to thank Haley Kokel for her assistance with the social media.

#### **Newsletter – Matt Troia**

- The change from 4 newsletters annually to 2 annually (pre meeting and post meeting) has been accepted into the TCAFS Bylaws and TCAFS Procedures.
- Matt plans to have the next newsletter published in April. If you have items that you would like to have published in the newsletter please send them to Matt.

#### **Nominating – Greg Cummings**

- The results from the TCAFS election are in. The new President-Elect is Tim Birdsong and the new Secretary/Treasurer is Sarah Robertson. Congratulations.
- Thank you to Steven Bardin and Dan Bennett for offering to serve.

#### **Pond Management – Greg Binion**

- There are new members on the pond management committee: Sean Deery and Steven Bardin. The group continues to revise the Pond Management document.

#### **Publicity/Exhibits – Shaun Donovan & Steven Bardin**

- Thank you to all of our 2021 TCAFS meeting sponsors. Sponsorships brought in over \$4k and the Teespring store brought in over \$200 of profits for student scholarships.
- The Teespring store will be open year round and the profits generated will go to student scholarships. The current 2021 TCAFS virtual meeting merchandise will be removed but the items with TCAFS logos will remain. There is no cost to keep the store open.

#### **Scholarships – Jennifer Butler**

- Thank you to everyone that helped score the scholarship applications. Over 40 applications were received.

#### **Issues – Kevin Mayes**

- If you are interested in joining the Issues Committee please reach out to Kevin Mayes.

#### **Student Outreach – Josh Perkin**

- Students made up 25% of the meeting registration, over 50% of the oral presentations, and an even larger percent of the poster presentations. In general, student involvement is growing in AFS.

## TCAFS 2021

## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

- Thank you to Margaret Stadig for presenting the HIRE: Hiring Interviews & Resume Editing class.

### - Student Subunit Updates

**TX A&M College Station – Lauren Yancy**

- No report

**TX A&M Corpus Christi – Jacob Oster**

- No report

**Tarleton State University – Thomas Johnson**

- No report

**Texas Tech University – Garrett Tucker**

- No report

### Old Business

- None

### Installation of New Officers

- Kirk welcomed Dakus as the new President.

### New Business (Dakus Geeslin)

- Dakus would like to be able to have an in-person meeting in 2022 but will also consider a virtual meeting.

- Dakus would like to continue the trends in giving and supporting other group at the same level in 2020 during 2021 (Brigades camp at \$1,000, SDAFS at \$250, and Jimmy Pigg at \$250). Kevin Mayes made a motion to accept, Kirk Winemiller seconded, motion approved.

- Action: Natalie will reach out to Kevin regarding the Jimmy Pigg contribution.

- Kevin Mayes, Clark Hubbs chair, requested the scholarship of the Clark Hubbs Scholarship (\$500) be increased to gain equity with the other scholarships (\$1,500) provided at the TCAFS meeting. The TCAFS voting members seemed to favor the idea of having the Clark Hubbs scholarship the same value as the other scholarships but that the Clark Hubbs scholarship remain independent of the other student scholarships. This issue was tabled at the meeting.

- Action: The TCAFS EXCOM will discuss and, if approved, update the TCAFS Procedure document to reflect the change.

### Adjourn



## TCAFS MEMBERSHIP

## JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER!

By Michele Nations, Membership Committee Chair

The TCAFS currently has 246 members. 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 2021 TCAFS meeting online, the registration included your 2021 membership dues. If you still need to pay for your 2021 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:

Sarah Robertson  
Texas River Center  
505 Staples Rd. BLDG 1  
San Marcos, TX 78666-1427

For questions concerning TCAFS membership or membership payment, please contact the TCAFS Secretary/Treasurer, Sarah Robertson, at

[sarah.robertson@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.robertson@tpwd.texas.gov).

Also, if your email address has changed, please contact me at

[michnat.TCAFS@gmail.com](mailto:michnat.TCAFS@gmail.com)

with an update so you can continue to receive the Chapter newsletter and 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.

### A message from the newsletter team:

**If you have ideas for stories or photographs from the field you would like to share, please email Matt Troia (troiamj@gmail.com). We can help develop and write stories, so please reach out, even if the idea is not completed yet.**

## 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

Newsletter Editor—Matt Troia  
troiamj@gmail.com

**TCAFS  
BEHIND THE  
SCENES:**

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRS AND  
MEMBERS**

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

PRESIDENT ..... Dakus Geeslin  
PRESIDENT-ELECT ..... Tim Birdsong  
PAST PRESIDENT ..... Kirk Winemiller  
SECRETARY-TREASURER ..... Sarah Robertson

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS**

AWARDS ..... Brittany Chesser  
CONTINUING EDUCATION ..... Lynn Wright  
EDITORIAL ..... Alice Best & Dave Buzan  
ENDOWMENTS ..... Brian VanZee  
HISTORY ..... Michele Nations  
INTERNET ..... Sarah Haas & John Taylor  
ISSUES ..... Kevin Mayes  
MEMBERSHIP ..... Michele Nations, Haley  
Kokel, & Stephen Curtis  
NOMINATING ..... Greg Cummings  
POND MANAGEMENT ..... Greg Binion, Sean Deery,  
& Steve Bardin  
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS ..... Shawn Donovan & Steve  
Bardin  
SCHOLARSHIP ..... Jennifer Butler  
STUDENT OUTREACH ..... Josh Perkin, Scott Collins,  
Levi Sparks, & Margaret Stadig

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Matt Troia  
[matthew.troia@utsa.edu](mailto:matthew.troia@utsa.edu)