



President's message

by Kevin Storey

As we scream to the close of another year, I am left wondering where the past 12 months has disappeared. I have often heard it said that as you get older, life gets faster. If your memory starts to fade this compounds the issue because you can forget where your ever-accelerating life has gone. The experience of leading the Texas Chapter AFS as president has been a rewarding one for me but I have welcomed the slower pace this year. In 2014, the work involved in setting up the annual meeting in Tyler was eye-opening but the support I received from others who had done it before was pleasantly reassuring. Our Chapter's ability to host successful meetings each year is a testament to the professionalism, and organizational skills of our membership. Many of our peers work earnestly and diligently in the background pulling it all together to make it work.

This has been an unusual year to say the least. The strong El Nino of 2015 brought an unreal amount of rain in May followed by uncharacteristic flooding in the Texas Hill Country in June which led to losses of lives and property. No sooner than we dried out, we were faced with another short drought event. By the time fall population assessments were conducted, significant benefits were being detected in reservoirs throughout the state and then we got even more rain. The net effect of improved aquatic habitat from increased reservoir elevations, was a noticeable increase in abundance of young-of-year largemouth bass in many reservoirs. Hopefully this will translate into improved angler success in coming years. Changes like this make fisheries managers look like heroes when in truth and in fact these benefits are entirely out of our control. We might as well enjoy the accolades because sooner or later something else will inevitably crop up that will consume your time and you will ultimately be blamed for. These ups and downs are all a part of the challenges faced by natural resource professionals operating in a world with diverse user groups some of whom can be quite demanding. We do what we do because that is where our passion lies. It's nice to live comfortably, but it's never been about the money!

If you are a younger professional or you've been watching the Chapter function from the sidelines there are many opportunities for involvement in TCAFS. As our Chapter reaches the ripe old age of 40, you can help shape its course and perhaps contribute to its legacy. I encourage you to contact a committee chair or an ExCom member and we'll find a place for you so you can have an impact.



Meeting Schedule for the 2016 Annual Meeting

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting from January 21-23 at the Y.O. Ranch Hotel in Kerrville. This year's theme is "Working Together for 40 Years of Fisheries Science." A scenic, central Texas location, we hope it encourages all of you both from the coast and around Texas to participate. Plan to bring your best science, presentations, posters, colleagues, and money.

Meeting Schedule:

Thursday, January 21st :

- Registration (1:00 - 5:00 pm)
- Continuing Education workshops (2:00 pm - 4:00 pm)
- Student/ Professional Mixer (5:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

Friday, January 22nd:

- Registration (7:00 am – 5:00 pm)
- Pre-Session coffee service (7:30 am)
- Welcome/ Keynote address (8:00 am - 8:45 am)
- Technical Session (8:45 am – 10:30 am)
- Break (10:30 am – 10:45 am)
- Technical Session (10:45 am – 12:00 pm)
- Student-Mentor Lunch and Lunch (on your own) (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm)
- Technical Session (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)
- Break (3:00 pm – 3:15 pm)
- Technical Session (3:15 pm – 5:00 pm)
- Poster Session (5:00 pm - 6:30 pm)
- Host Bar (5:30 pm – 6:30 pm)
- Dinner and Awards Presentations, Raffle/ Auction Social (6:30 pm - 9:30 pm)

Saturday, January 23rd:

- Past-Presidents' Breakfast (6:45 am – 7:45 am)
- Pre-Session coffee service (7:30 am)
- Technical Session (8:00 am - 10:00 am)
- Break (10:00 am – 10:15 am)
- Technical Session (10:15 am - 11:30 am)
- Chapter Business Meeting (11:30 am – 1:00 pm)
- Adjourn (1:00 pm)

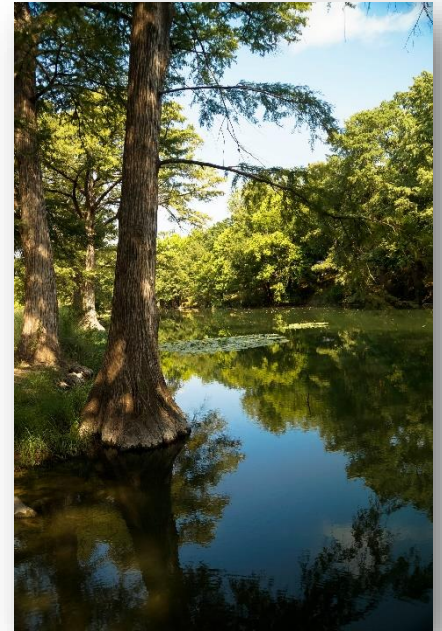
Registration:

Early registration will be \$102 for professionals and \$50 for students. Registration covers continuing education workshops, Thursday night's Student/Professional Mixer, presentations, Banquet, awards ceremony and auction. Registration also includes annual membership in the chapter.

The early registration deadline is December 31, 2015.

Late registration will be \$117 for professionals and \$60 for students. Extra banquet tickets will be \$35.

The registration form is at the end of this newsletter or can be downloaded from the chapter webpage at <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/TCAFS-2016-registration.pdf>



Hotel:

The Y.O. Ranch Hotel is located at 2033 Sidney Baker St, Kerrville. Pre-tax room rates (breakfast included):

- \$83/single
- \$93/double
- \$103/triple
- \$113/four guests (the student special)

Call toll-free 1-877-967-3767 or go to -

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1427579&hotelID=12007>

Ask for the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society Rate

In order to get these great rates, the hotel has blocked 120 rooms for our members. In order to guarantee you can reserve a room at these rates, you must make your reservation by noon, December 22. Remember our attendance goal is 300 members so expect rooms to be in high demand and register early.

Check-in time is **4:00 p.m.** and check-out is **noon**. The Hotel's policy requires a credit card imprint upon check-in. If the guest does not have a credit card, and the Group does not guarantee the guest's room expenses, all room and tax will be collected at time of check-in along with appropriate deposits. Any unused deposit will be refunded.

Exhibitors:

Exhibitors interested in obtaining space for their product should contact Jake Norman (jake.norman@tpwd.texas.gov) or Alice Best (alice.best@tpwd.texas.gov)



We need your help

There are opportunities to help out with audio visuals at the TCAFS annual meeting. If you're comfortable using a computer and you would be interesting in helping to load presentations and keep things going during the technical sessions, contact Danny Lewis at danny.lewis@tpwd.texas.gov or call him direct at 903-566-2161 extension 201.

Texas Chapter AFS Business Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2015

Freese & Nichols, 10431 Morado Circle, Austin, Texas

by Michael Homer, Secretary Treasurer

Call to Order: President Kevin Storey called the meeting to order at 10:02AM.

Members Present: Kevin Storey (President), Dave Buzan (President-Elect), Michael Homer Jr. (Secretary/Treasurer), Michele Nations (Historian/Awards Committee), Allison Pease (Editorial), Lynn Wright (Continuing Education), Joe Beach (Student Outreach), Aaron Urbanczyk (TX Tech Subunit President)

Approval of Previous Business Meeting Minutes: Kevin asked about approval of the August EXCOM Meeting Minutes published in the October 2015 newsletter. Dave Buzan gave a motion to accept the Minutes, which was seconded by Mike Homer. Kevin asked for a vote to which all Members present voted for with none against. Motion was passed and Minutes were approved.

President's Report (Kevin Storey): Kevin reported that various deadlines for the 2016 Annual Meeting in Kerrville were approaching quickly. Kevin noted that Michele Nations is working with charter members and has developed and ordered commemorative pins for the 40th anniversary of TCAFS. Kevin requested that members present encourage other members to assist with finding donations for auction and raffles.

President-Elect's Report (Dave Buzan): Dave reiterated that Jake Norman and Alice Best need help with finding items to auction and for the raffles and that other fundraising ideas are needed. Dave also mentioned that moderators are needed for the meeting sessions; he requested that Aaron Urbanczyk moderate a session. Dave mentioned that the general theme of the upcoming annual meeting will highlight the 40th anniversary of TCAFS and the recognition of the various contributions to fisheries that have been made to fisheries from all career levels of chapter members. Ray Mathews will be the keynote speaker, and he has been preparing for this task since the summer.

Joe Beach posed a question regarding implementing a pay system that would facilitate the Student/ Mentor Luncheon at the 2016 Annual Meeting and suggested the use of Square or PayPal. Dave Buzan would like to speak to the hotel to determine what payment options are available, and he plans to revisit with Joe Beach once he has been in contact with Y.O. Ranch.

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

Secretary/Treasurer (Michael Homer Jr.): The current balance in the TCAFS checking account was \$17,249.44. The most recent expenses included \$14.88 for shipping Patrick Cooney's TCAFS shirt, and \$150 to the parent society office for chapter insurance. Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation had made a \$6000 donation, which these funds are currently in the chapter's checking account. Mike Homer encouraged members to encourage others to register for the annual meeting and to make room reservations.

Committee Reports

Awards (Dave Buzan and Michele Nations): Michele has found multiple judges for presentations and awards; however she needs more. She particularly requested help for judging posters.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright): Two presentations have been confirmed and the presenters are currently developing their talks.

Editorial (Dan Daugherty and Allison Pease): Allison mentioned that the Editorial Committee has uploaded the 2015 Annual Meeting Proceedings to the TCAFS website for viewing. Dan D. is currently working on compiling and reviewing abstracts that are being submitted for the upcoming meeting.

Endowments (Dave Terre): Not present; Mike Homer stated that the most recent Oct 2015 statement balance was \$252,684.11. Dave Buzan was wondering if a goal amount has been established for the chapter's endowment, as well as if scholarships were being funded from principal amounts from the endowment or checking account funds. Mike Homer mentioned he would follow up with Dave Terre to discuss these questions.

History (Michele Nations): Michele has been updating Ray Mathews previously drafted history document by adding new references, more information, and additional photos. Michele has been working on the PowerPoint slideshow for the annual meeting. Michele said she ordered 200 pins for the first members that register for the meeting. She has paid with her personal credit card and requested reimbursement from the chapter. Mike Homer said he will provide the reimbursement once the receipt of the pins has been provided.

Internet (John Taylor and Danny Lewis): Not Present. Michele reported that Danny Lewis has posted the 2015 Annual Meeting Proceedings on the TCAFS website. Danny has worked with Dave Buzan about possibly getting multiple projectors for use at the upcoming annual meeting. Michele also stated that Danny could use additional help with audio/visual duties and requested that anyone interested in volunteering should contact him.

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

Membership (Debbie Wade): Not present; no report.

Newsletter Editor (Kevin Storey): Kevin has requested that all newsletter submissions be completed by 12/4/2015. Kevin requested that anyone who believes they may have some interesting fisheries-related news or papers submit them to the newsletter.

Nominating (Dan Bennett): Not present. Kevin reported that Dan had found two candidates for president-elect, but one has recently dropped out. Kevin urged that if anyone was interested in running or could nominate a suitable candidate, please notify Dan Bennett.

Pond Management (Greg Binion): Not present: no report.

Publicity/Exhibits (Jake Norman): Not present. Kevin reported that Jake requested help for soliciting donations for the raffles and auction. Dave Buzan mentioned that he will be donating a rifle for the auction; Michele Nations will be donating a painting.

Scholarships (Mike Morgan): Not present; no report.

Student Outreach (Joe Beach): Joe mentioned that TPWD will be offering four internships during summer 2016. Three internships are being supported with funding from the San Antonio Rodeo for students in Bexar County and neighboring counties. The other internship is being supported through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Joe mentioned that he has been in contact with faculty from Tarleton State University, and that the department and majors contacting fisheries-relevant courses have changed names. Once the changes are finalized, Joe plans to approach faculty members about potentially starting a student subunit.

Student Subunit Chapter Reports:

- Texas Tech University Student Subunit – Aaron Urbanczyk reported that the subunit recently elected new officers for 2016. The subunit will be hosting an angler education workshop that will be taught by Keira Quam (TPWD-Angler Education). Twenty participants are currently expected to attend.
- Texas A&M University Student Subunit – Not present; no report.

Old Business: No old business to discuss.

New Business: No new business to report.

Adjourn: Kevin Storey called for a motion to adjourn at 11:09AM.

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program Is seeking 2016 Summer Mentors

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program continues its mission every summer to diversify the fisheries profession by engaging, inspiring, and enriching next generation fisheries professionals. Mentors and their organizations not only have the opportunity to have a positive effect on the life of a high school student, but also receive assistance with important summer projects and may even discover a potential future employee! AFS simplifies the mentor's involvement by providing guidance and administrative support.

Apply to be a 2016 Hutton Mentor at: <http://hutton.fisheries.org/mentor-application/>

Application Deadline: **February 27, 2016**

The Hutton J.F.B. Program is a paid summer internship and mentoring program for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing the disciplines of fisheries science, marine biology, and STEM related fields, and is sponsored by AFS. From the beginning of the program in 2001 to 2015, the program has offered scholarships to 572 Hutton scholars with the help of 270 Mentors in 137 host and financially sponsoring institutions. The mission is to increase diversity within the fisheries professions. The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Selected students known as "Hutton Scholars," are matched and mentored by a fisheries professional to enjoy an 8-week hands-on fisheries science summer experience in a marine and/or freshwater setting.

- Receive a \$4,000 scholarship award
- Learn about the importance of healthy aquatic systems
- Participate in resource conservation and management projects
- Gain hands-on work experience
- Learn about career opportunities in the field, and receive course study resources.

Share the mission and principal goal of increasing diversity within the fisheries field to your network of professionals. For details go to <http://hutton.fisheries.org/>

For any questions, please contact AFS Educational Program Coordinator, Cynthia Oboh at coboh@fisheries.org , 301.897.8616, ext 225



SEAFWA 2015 fisheries biologist of the year - Brian Van Zee

By Larry Hodge, TPWD



Ed Carter (L), chair of the SEAFWA awards committee, presented the Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award to Brian Van Zee of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the SEAFWA annual meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, November 3. Thomas Harvey, © Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Brian Van Zee of Waco has been named fisheries biologist of the year by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA).

Van Zee is a fisheries biologist for the Inland Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and is headquartered in Waco.

“It gives me great pleasure to present this year’s Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award to Brian Van Zee,” SEAFWA President Bob Ziehmer said. “His contributions to fisheries conservation that began in Texas have led to ripples across the country.”

Van Zee was instrumental in helping TPWD deal with one of the greatest threats Texas fisheries resources have faced, the introduction of invasive zebra mussels to Texas waters.

“Brian developed and fostered more than 40 key partnerships that helped our agency and constituents understand and address this very dynamic and complicated situation,” said TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith, who nominated Van Zee for the award.

Through new relationships with governmental agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, private industry and the media, Van Zee fostered collaborative information gathering and sharing, training, statewide monitoring, education and awareness, and delivery of two innovative control efforts.

“Brian has been at the forefront of our efforts to contain the rapidly expanding population and to try and keep it from threatening other waters,” Smith said. “Simply put, he has quickly become one of the state’s foremost authorities on how best to contend with this threat to our waters, aquatic habitats, and boating and fishing traditions.”

Van Zee organized innovative treatments on a 30-mile stretch of river and a reservoir marina. He worked with others to develop, fund and execute a public awareness campaign. Because of his efforts, more than 200 people have been trained to inspect boats for the mussels, and boater inspection and statewide monitoring programs have been implemented.

To keep the public informed and engaged in fighting the invasion, he authored more than 50 press releases and gave hundreds of media interviews. Because of his program’s success, Van Zee has given multiple presentations and training courses to different organizations across the country that are also fighting invasive species.

Van Zee is also responsible for coordinating the Texas statewide fish-stocking plan as well as fisheries management and research operations in the central and western portions of Texas. He and his wife Jill have two children, Breeley and Raelynn.

“All of the achievements that were mentioned are the result of not just my efforts but rather those of many great people and team players,” Van Zee said. “I am very blessed to get to work for TPWD and all of the great staff that we have in the agency. That goes for our field staff as well as all of my supervisors and TPWD’s executive

leadership, who trust us and support us in our work. I think the award really says volumes for who we are as an agency.

"I also want to recognize my wife and daughters for always supporting me in my work," he added. "I am truly a lucky man to have such a loving family and I thank God for them and for the blessings that they are."

The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) is an organization whose members are the state agencies with primary responsibility for management and protection of the fish and wildlife resources in 15 states, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Van Zee was TCAFS President in 2010.

History of the TCAFS Skeg and other memorable historical items

By Ray Mathews, Jr.

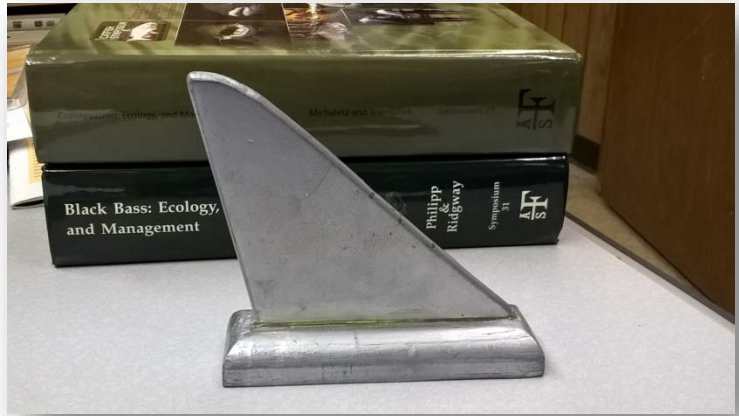
Reprinted from August 2005 Newsletter - Vol. 31 No.2

The history of the now-famous Chapter Skeg began in 1990 when Bobby Farquhar, then TCAFS President, won it in a raffle at the annual meeting held next to Lake Texoma and used it the next morning to bring the business meeting to order as a sort of gavel. From that moment on it was passed down from Chapter President to President at the business meeting—a tradition that has continued for 15 years. Gene McCarty was the recipient of the skeg from Bobby and so on down the line of presidents over the years. According to Bobby, back in those days the raffle was a "junk raffle" and any little item, like the skeg or some fishing hooks, sinkers, box of earth worms, etc., were what you got. The Chapter has certainly come a long way since then. We now have great raffle and auction items, and not surprisingly, we have a lot more funds for student scholarships these days. The first skeg was actually not from a boat but rather from an old water ski. A skeg is the fin on the bottom of a boat or ski that gives it stability as it moves through the water. A skag is the removable metal piece that fits through the bottom of a sail boat, serving the same purpose as a skeg. The two are often confused.



Fran Gelwick handing the famous skeg to Dave Terre at the annual meeting held in Grapevine, Texas in 2005.

One other point about the history of the Chapter Skeg is that it has been lost innumerable times in the 15-year tradition. President Katherine Ramos left it on the podium at the Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro, Texas, at Lake Texoma in 1996, and despite attempts to locate it the skeg was never found. Another one was made by a fisheries technician, Lynn Sloan, at the Lake Texoma field station from the lower unit of an outboard motor. That Skeg lasted a few years until Paul Hammerschmidt could not find it to give to Charlie Munger in 2000. Charlie had a new skeg made in 2001 out of scrap iron left over from a wrecked boat, which was shaped with a grinder. Charlie gave that one to Gordon Linam at the Chapter's Silver Anniversary in San Marcos, Texas, at Aquarena Springs. That skeg has lasted for a few years and was passed from Fran Gelwick to Dave Terre at the last annual meeting in 2005 (see picture). So, it must be said that Chapter presidents are very innovative in getting new ones made. Perhaps that is one reason they are Chapter presidents, because of their innovation. While researching this story, I came across several other historical items of interest in Chapter history.



Current skeg presented to Kevin Storey at the 2015 meeting

- Katherine Ramos had the longest presidency in the history of the organization, 18 months, from September 1997 to January 1999, due to a change in the date of the annual meeting.
- Members decided to raffle Bruce Hysmith's shirt at one of the earlier meetings when items were in short supply, which he had to take off at the meeting.
- The Abilene annual meeting in 1988 was the worst attended of the decade, and casino chips were used for the raffle drawing.
- The annual meeting in Austin in 1994 had the most memorable raffle with a "Bait-a-Hole" contest held at Lago Vista on Lake Travis. Joedy Gray, with TPWD (Austin Inland Fisheries Office) was heavily involved in the contest organization. "Bait-a-Hole" was a package of bait that was supposed to attract catfish to a fishing hole. Every time someone would win the bid for it, they would donate it back to the auction again. There were many packages that were bought and sold several times. These inexpensive little items made a lot of money for the scholarship fund.
- Bob Edwards was requested to write a paper for the 1979 annual meeting's Texas Chapter proceedings, which was turned down by the editorial committee because they said it was written at the 12th grade level but was later accepted for publication in the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*.

Some really strange things have happened in the Texas Chapter, and I just wanted to pass some of them along to you. More stories came based on you telling me what you experience in the past. Let's share them with the membership.

[*Note from Michele Nations, current Historian: Please share your stories with me! Ray did a wonderful job of capturing some great memories! If you have some memories you would like to share with the Chapter, send them along to me at Michele.nations@tpwd.texas.gov.*]

SARA student Intern job announcement



The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will be posting a position in January 2016 for a paid intern in its Environmental Sciences Department (ESD). 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 provide an individual interested in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, other Natural or Environmental Science an opportunity to 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 waste water samples

- Assists with the calibration, operation and maintenance of ESD field instruments
- Makes unbiased observations of aquatic and riparian conditions
- Helps review field data forms for completeness

Other Responsibilities

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

Education, Experience and Skills Required

- Must be an undergraduate at an accredited college or university with a minimum 3.0 grade point average
- Must be a current member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
- 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

Working Conditions

Interns are asked to commit to 40 hours per week. Work days are primarily Monday through Thursday (10 hour/ 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 2016.

Work will be outdoors the majority of the time, sometimes in adverse weather, and the intern may be exposed to such typical hazards of outdoor work 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.

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 SARA Core Values of Stewardship, Integrity, and Excellence.

Requirements

Candidates for this internship must meet the following qualifications:

- Enrolled at an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.0 grade point average
- Provide transcripts
- Member of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
- 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 **January 16, 2016**. Applications will close on February 27, 2016. The selected intern will be notified by **Monday, March 13, 2016**.

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

For more information about this job opportunity, please contact:

Charles J. Lorea

San Antonio River Authority

Watershed Monitoring Supervisor, Environmental Sciences Department

P.O. Box 839980

600 E. Euclid Ave.

San Antonio, Texas 78283-9980

210.302.3674

clorea@sara-tx.org

40-Years of memories and commemorative pins to celebrate them

By Michele Nations, Archivist/Historian



When we had our EXCOM meeting in Kerrville, Michael Homer had a good idea of how to help attendees remember the 40-year anniversary – a commemorative TCAFS 40-year pin. The first 200 people who register for the meeting will receive this special token. It can be proudly worn on your cap, lapel, pocket, or scarf.

Oops! I'd better go turn in my registration and get the early bird rate and a pin!

The Texas Chapter is celebrating 40 years of being a part of the American Fisheries Society, and it has been a great 40 years: from the first organizational meeting in 1975 on the TAMU campus and being accepted by the parent society in 1976 to the present. Those who attend the Kerrville meeting in January will be surrounded by TCAFS and fisheries history. Several of us have been involved in bringing it all together, and we've had a good time reminiscing, looking for photos and asking "Do you remember when . . . ?" At Bruce Hysmith's retirement party, I challenged people to send me photos of equipment that was used in the early days. I'll get you an article a little later with more of what was sent in by Marcos DeJesus, Natalie Goldstrohm, and others, but here is a sample: the Abilene Inland Fisheries crew has a black rotary phone in their shop that still works. Compare that with the now widely used smart phone?



Lance Benson, TPWD Inland Fisheries-Abilene, takes a call on the vintage phone in their shop. Photo by Natalie Goldstrohm

Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday! Capturing Today for Those Who Come Tomorrow!

By Michele Nations, Archivist/Historian

Being the archivist/historian for the Texas Chapter is an honor. I get the opportunity to look back and see how the Chapter has grown into the impressive organization that it has become and how people have been following in the footsteps of those who have come before. For me, those footsteps were those of Ray Mathews. Such big shoes to fill!

Even as I work on preparing the history of the last 40 years and being so grateful for all of the work that Ray did for TCAFS's 25th anniversary, I'm also working on capturing today so that it might be preserved for our 50th anniversary, a future tomorrow.

Even from our very beginning on the TAMU campus, students have played a big part of our history. The TCAFS leadership has placed an emphasis on encouraging student participation through scholarships (first given in 1989 to Tommy Bates, TAMU), best student presentation awards (first given in 1996 to Craig Paukert, OSU), and best student poster awards (first given in 2002 to James Turner, TAMUG). It seems like every committee, and especially the student outreach committee, is devoted to helping Chapter professional members interact with students.



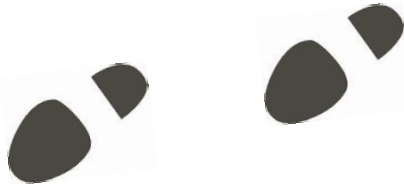
Above, L-R, at the 2002 meeting in Junction, Gordon Linam hands James Turner the Best Student Presentation award. Jay Rooker was the co-author.

Members of college and university fisheries/biology faculties have been and are preparing students for tomorrow. Looking over past awards, Tim Bonner's name has popped up a few times. As a student from Texas Tech, he won the award for best presentation in 1998.

Tim's name appeared again in 2001 when he received the Outstanding Fisheries Student award. Gene Wilde was his PhD advisor. In 2004, his dedication to and love for his students and fisheries were made evident when he received the award for Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in Fisheries Education as the youngest person to receive the award in TCAFS history. Tim is following in the footsteps of such renowned education award winners as Clark Hubbs (UT, 1978), Richard Noble (TAMU, 1979), and his predecessor, Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU/TX State, 1981). I believe that is why presenting awards to outstanding fisheries workers and capturing them in our history is so important – I'm capturing footsteps.



Above, at the 2004 College Station meeting Tim Bonner received the Outstanding Fisheries Worker in Education award as the youngest member to win the award.



Above, seated, L-R: Larry and Donna Courington; standing, L-R: Cindy and Greg Courington of the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation (2015 annual meeting banquet in Tyler). Photo by Michele Nations.

It has taken involvement at all levels for our chapter to be where it is today: from students to professors, from technical staff to researchers, from support staff to administrators, and from technicians to management and hatchery biologists. The category that takes awards a step farther is that of special recognition. These people or organizations don't fit into the normal categories and may not be members of the chapter, such as the beautiful people from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation, winner of the Special Recognition award in 2005. The Couringtons not only help us financially but also attend and participate in our annual meetings as shown in the photo from the 2015 meeting. We love their smiles!

So as we move into our tomorrows, someone to fill and capture! What steps



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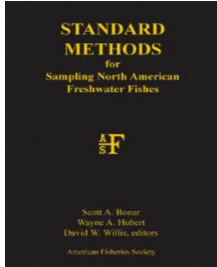


footsteps we are leaving for to take?



Freebies for the busy fisheries professional!

❖ Web-based comparison tool for freshwater fish data



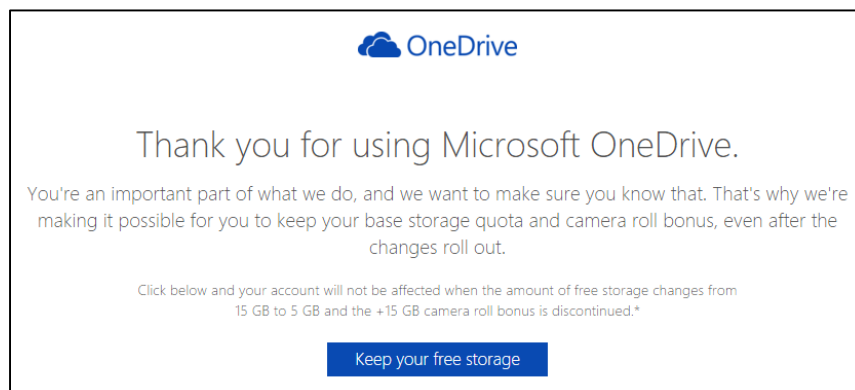
In 2009, “Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes” (Scott A. Bonar, Wayne A. Hubert, and David W. Willis, editors, ISBN: 978-1-934874-10-3) was published as a reference book to describe standard methods recommended by AFS for assessing and monitoring freshwater fish populations in North America. Authors, reviewers, and sponsors contributing to the book included 284 biologists and managers from 107 agencies, universities, and businesses throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. This reference forms the framework of a new web-based tool that allows fisheries workers to upload data they collect using these standard methods and generate individual fish condition, population length-frequency distributions, and catch per unit effort (CPUE) data. These data can be compared with continent, ecoregion and state data summaries. The web tool was programmed in a PHP-based Drupal framework and was supported by several AFS Sections, agencies, and universities. The system is described in an article in the December 2015 issue of Fisheries Magazine (Vol. 40, No. 12) entitled “A Simple Web-Based Tool to Compare Freshwater Fish Data Collected Using AFS Standard Methods” by Scott A. Bonar, Norman Mercado-Silva, Matt Rahr, Yuta T. Torrey, and Averill Cate, Jr. (pp 580-589). The tool also provides information on ongoing validation studies of standard methods and fisheries scientists can leave comments on specific methods which can be incorporated into future revisions.



<https://fisheriesstandardsampling.org/home>

❖ Microsoft gives back storage to OneDrive free users

Recently Microsoft decided to reduce the storage capacity for the free users of their cloud-based storage service from 15 GB down to 5 GB and they took away the 15 GB camera roll bonus for cloud backup of images for smartphones. This proved to be an unpopular decision and now the conglomerate based in Redmond, Washington will restore the capacity of free users back to 15 GB and the camera roll bonus will also be made available again. That’s good news if you use the service but you have to opt-in by January 31, 2016 at <https://preview.onedrive.com/bonus/>. If you don’t ask for it, you won’t get it!



Join the Texas Chapter

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

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

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Kevin Storey
2122 Old Henderson Highway
Tyler, Texas 75702
903-593-5077 FAX 903-531-0109
E-mail: kevin.storey@tpwd.state.tx.us





2016 Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Meeting

Y.O. Ranch Hotel & Conference Center
Kerrville, Texas – January 21-23, 2016



Registration Form

Registration now includes annual chapter membership but receipts will show itemized charges separately. Professional or Student) and access to all technical sessions, continuing education workshops, Student/Professional Friday Lunch, and Friday night banquet. **The deadline for early registration is December 31, 2015! Please print legibly, especially e-mail addresses.**

Name	Date
Street Address	
City, State, Zip Code	Organization
Phone	Email Address

MEETING REGISTRATION:	Cost/Person	Total Cost
Regular Member Registration – Received by 12-31-15	\$102	
Received after 12-31-15	\$117	
Student Member Registration – Received by 12-31-15	\$50	
Received after 12-31-15	\$60	
Extra Friday Night Banquet Ticket For Guests	\$35	
TOTAL REGISTRATION COST (make checks payable to TCAFS; no cash!!!)		\$_____

ADDITIONAL MEETING SIGN-UP INFO: <i>Free for all registrants - please indicate if you plan to participate.</i>	
Willingness to serve as a presentation judge at meeting (TCAFS Professional Members only, students are not eligible).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday Continuing Education Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Rights and Environmental Flows in Texas. Presenters: Gordon Linam and Kevin Mayes (TPWD Inland Fisheries River Studies Program) “Understanding Variability in Your Data: How Good is Good Enough?”. Presenters: Warren Schlechte and John Taylor (TPWD Inland Fisheries) 	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Friday Student/Mentor Lunch: Pair up with someone with interest in or experience with governmental agency, academia, private consulting, etc. (select your role or leave blank if not interested)	Student <input type="checkbox"/> Mentor <input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday TCAFS Business Meetings: TCAFS business meeting will occur following the technical sessions Saturday morning. Please attend for more information on committees to serve on, chapter business and any potential voting that may be conducted.	

<p>SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO MIKE HOMER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One (1) form per person. Please make checks payable to TCAFS, please do not send cash!!! <p>____ To pay by Credit Card (PayPal), check here and send completed registration form to Michael Homer. (A PayPal invoice will be sent to email address provided above with instructions on how to pay using your credit card).</p>	<p>Michael Homer TX Chapter AFS Treasurer 5325 North 3rd Street Abilene, TX 79603 Phone: 325-692-0921 FAX: 325-698-3528 Michael.Homer@tpwd.texas.gov</p>
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Bruce Hysmith's retirement - September 29th, 2015

An event attended by many fisheries professionals past and present
Photos courtesy of Michele Nations

