

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



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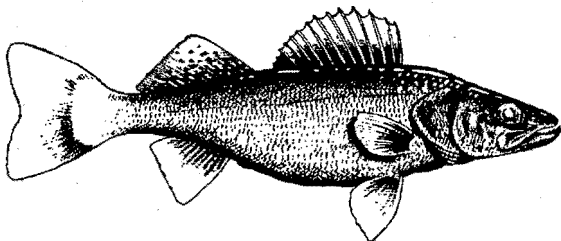
June 1995

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Pat Hutson

I would like to give thanks in recognition of those members of TCAFS who give so much of their time to make the Chapter a success. I am very pleased with the accomplishments we have achieved thus far. At the annual meeting I discussed several goals we hoped to accomplish. Through your support and hard work many of these goals have been reached and many more will be. Loraine Fries has organized an outstanding educational program in conjunction with the annual meeting; we have worked with the Texas Aquaculture Association in successfully accomplishing a great student outreach program, Dr. Gary Garrett has brought attention to the Chapter thru his outstanding work, we will soon have a procedure manual thanks to Dr. Joan Holt, the Chapter bylaws will be updated with membership approval, Lance Robinson is working on the membership directory, Mike Reed has developed a Chapter resolution on Triploid Grass Carp and so on.

The TCAFS is the largest Chapter in the Southern Division. Our accomplishments are well recognized and appreciated by the Division and Society. We will have the opportunity to show just how good we are as the co-host of the 1997 Southern Division Mid - Year Meeting. The meeting will be the last part of February in San Antonio. This will be an outstanding opportunity to present research. Dick Luebke has VOLUNTEERED to be chairman of the Arrangements Committee. I am sure Dick would accept any help he can get.



FIRST CALL for PAPERS ANNUAL MEETINGS of the TCAFS

The annual meeting of the Texas Chapter AFS will be held at the **College Station Hilton on Monday and Tuesday Sept. 11-12, 1995** with a professional development session on Sunday afternoon September 10 for students and others interested in career development. The emphasis of this year's meeting is on **professional diversity and Texas aquatic resource issues**. To that end submissions to the program are needed from all areas of the Texas fisheries community. Presenters have the option of having their manuscripts published in the peer reviewed Proceedings of the Texas Chapter AFS or submitting an abstract only. Abstracts for all submissions should be one single spaced page and should be sent to:

Bob Edwards
Chair/Editorial Committee
University of Texas-Pan American
Edinburg, TX 78539
Tel: (210) 381-3537
Fax: (210) 381-3657

Submission deadline is August 1, 1995. If you have any questions call Bob Edwards or call Mark Webb at (409) 822-5067.

SPECIAL ISSUES SESSION at MEETING

by Mike Reed

There are a wide variety of environmental problems facing aquatic scientists throughout Texas. Since many of these problems are regionally specific, aquatic professionals from throughout the state are often uninformed about particular situations. To facilitate better communication and to educate the general membership about some of the serious issues challenging Texas' aquatic resources, a special issues session



will be held at the annual meeting. Several topics will be addressed by invited speakers experienced with particular issues. This session will be held prior to the business meeting to allow the membership to discuss any action the TCAFS might take in response to any issue. The "top issues" being considered for presentations include: introduction of exotic aquatic species, recent changes in aquaculture discharge regulations, the Red River Chloride Reduction project, the private lands-endangered species controversy, and the Trans-Texas Interbasin Water Transfer Project. The session is being organized by Nick Parker (806) 742-2851 and Mike Reed (512) 547-7225. Please let them know if you would like for any of these or other issues to be addressed.

EXCOMM ISSUES RESOLUTION

by Mike Reed

In the last newsletter, the Exotic Species Committee made a call for comment concerning drafting a resolution supporting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Triploid Grass Carp Policy. After considering comments received and discussing the issue, the Excomm voted to issue a resolution. The Committee is currently developing an extensive list of lawmakers and conservation organizations to send the resolution. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution Concerning Stocking Triploid Grass Carp in Public and Private Waters of Texas May 1995

Whereas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is charged with the management, protection, and enhancement of the natural resources of the State of Texas and is responsible for regulating the introduction of exotic aquatic species into the public and private waters of the State under authority of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, having established criteria which must be met before any entity may legally stock triploid grass carp into public or private waters of the State, and

Whereas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is seriously concerned about potential negative impacts upon sensitive aquatic habitats both upstream and downstream of public and private water stocking sites, in particular, sensitive riverine and coastal wetland habitat areas which produce most of Texas' commercially valued fish and shellfish species and an array of recreationally important fish, shellfish, and wildlife species, and

Whereas, there is a strong and growing sentiment in support of stocking triploid grass carp into public

waters to control native and non-native aquatic vegetation without concern as to the possible negative effects upon aquatic ecosystem integrity, and

Whereas, the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is the professional state chapter of the American Fisheries Society and is composed of approximately 300 fisheries professionals dedicated to responsible stewardship and management of Texas' public and private aquatic resources.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society strongly urges Texas' elected officials, regional water authorities, private utility companies, resource conservation organizations, private citizens and other agencies and individuals concerned with and responsible for the wise use and management of Texas' aquatic resources to support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in its established Triploid Grass Carp Regulation Program to ensure the quality of Texas' aquatic resources is maintained for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

GUADALUPE RIVER HYDRILLA-GRASS CARP PROJECT

by Mike Reed

A series of small hydropower reservoirs on the middle Guadalupe River have recently become the focal point for private landowners, anglers, and resource managers caught in the never-ending struggle to manage hydrilla. These small flow-through reservoirs, Lakes Dunlap, McQueeney, Placid, H-4, and H-5 are located between New Braunfels and Gonzales. All are less than 700 acres in size and heavily utilized by recreational boaters and anglers. Lakes Dunlap, McQueeney, and Placid have the most extensive shoreline development.

In 1993 the exotic aquatic plant hydrilla appeared in Lake Dunlap and rapidly expanded, seriously restricting boat access. The Lake Dunlap Property Owners Association (LDPOA) called upon the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), and state lawmakers to provide relief from the hydrilla problem. A series of public meetings were held to explain the biology of hydrilla and potential control options. The TPWD recommended limited herbicide application as a means of alleviating the access problem. The LDPOA applied to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a Permit to Stock Triploid Grass Carp. The TPWD denied the application based upon the high probability of fish escaping and emigrating to areas where they could do serious harm

to aquatic habitats. Public meetings continued and a plan for limited herbicide use was developed. In May 1994, the LDPOA, GBRA, and TPWD cooperated in chemically treating 59 acres of hydrilla in Lake Dunlap. The treatment was very successful, improving boat access through the summer and early fall. In May 1995 the LDPOA, GBRA, and TPWD will again cooperate in conducting an herbicide treatment on Lake Dunlap to improve boating access.

By 1994, hydrilla had colonized Lake McQueeney, the reservoir immediately downstream of Lake Dunlap. Property and business owners quickly formed The Friends of Lake McQueeney (FOLM). This group also called upon the GBRA, TPWD, and state lawmakers to stop the spread of hydrilla. Again, public meetings were held to educate people on the control options available and to emphasize the TPWD's concerns with stocking triploid grass carp. However, the FOLM held to a belief that triploid grass carp were the only viable and acceptable management option for controlling hydrilla.

In early 1995, the TPWD agreed to a proposal by the GBRA and FOLM to conduct a radio-tracking study of triploid grass carp in Lake McQueeney. The GBRA, FOLM, and TPWD will fund the project which will collect movement data on grass carp for up to 6 years. The project was expanded to include placing 25 radio tagged grass carp of various sizes in each of the five reservoirs in late June. The fish will be tracked until two flood events occur, after which a report will be written. Tracking will continue for the life of the tags. Aquatic vegetation types and quantity varies dramatically between reservoirs allowing for an evaluation of grass carp movement under differing habitat conditions. The outcome of the study will no doubt have strong implications for the future of the TPWD Triploid Grass Carp Program.

In May 1995 a limited aquatic herbicide application will also be conducted on Lake McQueeney to improve boating access. The FOLM, GBRA, and TPWD are cooperating in conducting this treatment.

For more information concerning the herbicide treatment activities contact Debby Magin, GBRA, (210) 379-5822 or Mike Reed, TPWD, (512) 547-9712. For information concerning the grass carp tracking project, contact John Prentice, TPWD, (210) 866-3356 or Earl Chilton, TPWD, (512) 389-4652.

CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

by Loraine Fries

The Texas Chapter has scheduled its first-ever continuing education workshop to occur immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting at the Hilton in College Station on **September 12, 1995**. The topic of this workshop is Geographic Information Systems/Global Positioning Systems. The workshop is open to all chapter members.

Craig Scofield and Fred Janssen of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will conduct the workshop designed to introduce geographic information services (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS) technology to chapter members. Topics to be covered include TPWD programs using GIS and information exchange, existing and future technologies, data collection, and analysis possibilities and limitations for research and management. There will be a hands-on demonstration using GPS equipment during the 4-hour workshop. For additional information on the workshop, contact Fred Janssen at 512/389-4921.

To sign-up for the workshop, please complete the following form and mail it to Loraine Fries at the address indicated. While it will be possible to sign up for the workshop at the meeting, we would like to know how many people to expect.

TCAFS Continuing Education - GIS/GPS Workshop

September 12, 1995

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**College Station Hilton
College Station, Texas**

Name:

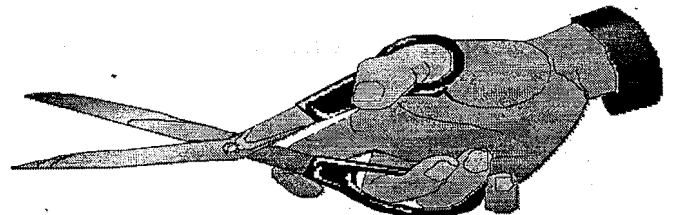
Address:

Agency:

Phone No:

Send completed form to: Loraine T. Fries, TPWD,
P.O. Box 947, San Marcos, Texas 78667

.....For more on grass carp see page 11.



OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER OF THE YEAR

by John Moczygemba

The time is here to start thinking of your choice for **OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER OF THE YEAR and SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN FISHERIES WORK**. It is time to acknowledge a colleague who has made some special effort in the fisheries field.

Let me refresh you on the nomination procedures for Outstanding Fisheries Worker of Year. Nominations can be made only by members in good standing. The recipient must also be a member in good standing. The award can be based on fisheries-related work and the work can span more than one year. Honorable mentions may be awarded if more than one nominee in a category is considered outstanding by the Committee. On the flip side, if the Committee members feel there is not a suitable nominee for a category, then an award will not be given for that category. The criteria for the six categories are given below:

ADMINISTRATION

-Development of innovative management programs, research activities, or facilities that significantly affect fisheries management and conservation on a regional or statewide level.

-Leadership in implementation of regulations or management programs that address regional or statewide fisheries issues.

-Development of new sources of funding for fisheries programs.

-Leadership in the development of public outreach or recognition/award programs.

-Significant and effective promotion of fisheries management and conservation activities on a regional or statewide level.

CULTURE

-Development of techniques that produced fish more safely, more efficiently, or more economically.

-Development of methods which produced species not formerly cultured.

-Development of techniques that produced more fish.

-Participation in the development of equipment that benefitted fish culture.

-Promotion of fish culture.

-Participation in the production of a record number of fish (may be station or species specific).

EDUCATION

-Development of an innovative approach to fisheries education as illustrated through development of a new or revised course or curriculum.

-Publication of a journal article, extension publication, book, or book chapter that contributed signifi-

cantly to fisheries education.

-Contribution of notable service in public education programs.

-Development of educational media (software, videotape, slide-tape, etc.) that contributed significantly to fisheries education.

-Outstanding contribution to the profession through service as an officer or other leader of an educational organization (e.g., the Education Section of the American Fisheries Society).

MANAGEMENT

-Development of management plans or strategies or implementation of management practices (reservoir or pond management plans, pre-impoundment work, habitat work, development of urban fisheries). This would include private water work.

-Education of the public in areas of fishing or fisheries management (conducting fishing clinics, educational programs, contact with various media, development of brochures, newsletters, bulletin boards, fliers, popular articles, etc.)

-Coordination with different agencies (cities, counties, or federal government) or reservoir controlling authorities to develop or implement management strategies.

-Participation in professional scientific organizations in the fisheries field to include offices held, committees served on, or other activities accomplished for the organization.

RESEARCH

-Research contribution should add to the understanding of a biological problem or to solving a resource problem.

-Research contribution can be basic, applied, or a combination.

-Research contribution should have been disseminated, in order of importance, in a peer-reviewed journal, non-peer-reviewed publication, or an oral presentation.

-Participation in professional and public organizations in the fisheries research field which comment, advise, or review research activities.

-In order of importance, the nominee's role in a research project should be directing the project or program, establishing the project or program, analyzing data, or conceiving the project or program.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

-Development of new or improved design and/or construction of equipment used in field sampling, culture operations, lab analysis, etc..

-Participation in outstanding or unique management, research, or culture activities, which contributed significantly to the fisheries profession.

-Participation in programs to educate other fisheries workers or the public (fishing clinics, seminars, articles, brochures, etc.).

-Accomplishments resulting in new or improved techniques or greater efficiency (data compilation and analysis, improved lab techniques, more productive fish culture techniques, improved fish sampling techniques, etc.).

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work is based on fisheries-related work done in Texas. The work can span more than one year and does not have to fit into any category. The recipient may be an individual or an organization and may or may not be a member. However, the nomination can be made only by members in good standing. More than one award can be given each year.

Here are the nominating instructions. Please use specific accomplishments to meet the criteria for each area. A short paragraph (100 words or less) at the end of each nomination can be used to list accomplishments which do not exactly fit criteria. **Please be concise** so the Committee members can be objective in making their choices. The goal is to make the nominations in each area more comparable, which will aid the Committee in making the best choice for "Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year" and "Special Recognition in Fisheries Work". **The deadline is August 15** to have nominations mailed to me at the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station, Route 4, Box 157, Denison, Texas 75020 or fax to (903) 786-9871. If you have any questions contact me at (903) 786-2389. One nomination has already been submitted, so it is not too early. Please put name, employer, and who nominated by at the top of the letter. Use the following format:

NAME:

EMPLOYED BY:

NOMINATED BY:

CRITERIA ACCOMPLISHMENTS: See criteria

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS: < 100 words

Send nomination to : **John Moczygema, Lake Texoma Fisheries Station, Rt. 4, Box 157, Denison, Texas 75020.**



HISTORY OF TEXAS CHAPTER AWARDS

1977

Fisheries Research - John A. Prentice and Richard D. Clark, Jr. (TPWD)

1978

Fisheries Education and Research-Clark Hubbs (UT)
Fish Culture - Pat L. Hutson (TPWD)
Special Recognition - Edward R. Lyles (FWS)

1979

Fish Culture - Robert Stickney (TAMU)
Fisheries Education - Richard Noble (TAMU)
Fisheries Management - Gary Valentine (SCS)
Fisheries Research - Phil Durocher (TPWD)
Special Recognition - Charles Inman (TPWD)

1980

none

1981

Fisheries Education - Bobby Whiteside (SWTSU)

1982

Fish Culture - Roger L. McCabe (TPWD)
Fisheries Research - William C. Guest (TPWD)
Special Recognition - Robert P. Hofstetter (TPWD)

1983

Special Recognition - Robert J. Kemp (TPWD)

1984

none

1985

Fisheries Education - Donald E. Wohlschlag (UT MSI)

Fisheries Research - Connie R. Arnold (UTMSI)

1986

Fisheries Management - William Higginbotham (TAES)

Fisheries Research - Robert L. Colura (TPWD)

1987

Fish Culture - Kerry Graves (FWS)

Special Recognition - The Sportsmen's Club of Texas

1988

Fisheries Research - Gary P. Garrett (TPWD)

Special Recognition - Kirk Strawn (TAMU)

1989

Fisheries Administration - Gary C. Matlock (TPWD)

Fish Culture - Robert R. Vega (TPWD)

Fisheries Management - Joseph E. Kraai (TPWD)

Fisheries Research - Roy J. Kleinsasser and Gordon W. Linam (TPWD)

1990

Fisheries Administration - C. Gene McCarty (TPWD)

Fish Culture - Glen A. Alexander and David L. Campbell (TPWD)

Fisheries Management - David R. Terre (TPWD)

Best Presentation (1989) - Robert Clay Smith

1991

Fisheries Administration - Pat L. Hutson (TPWD)

Fish Culture - Jake Isaac, Jr. (TPWD)

Fisheries Management - Mark Webb (TPWD)

Fisheries Research - Ronnie M. Pitman (TPWD)

Special Recognition - The Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas

Best Presentation (1990) - Joe Kraai

1992

Fish Culture - Camilo Chavez, Jr. (TPWD)

Fisheries Management - Ken Sellers (TPWD)

Fisheries Research - Bob Colura (TPWD)

Education - Brian Murphy (TAMU)

Special Recognition in Fisheries - Bobby Farquhar (TPWD)

Special Recognition - Andy Sansom (TPWD), Rudy Rosen (TPWD)

Best Presentation (1991) - Mark Stacell

1993

Fisheries Management - Bruce Hysmith (TPWD)

Special Recognition - Joe Martin (TPWD), Steve Gutreuter (TPWD)

Best Presentation (1992) - Maurice Muoneke

1994

Fisheries Administration - Dick Luebke

Fish Culture - Ted Engelhardt

Fisheries Management - Steve Magnelia

Special Recognition - Bob Howells

Best Presentation (1993) - Jay Rooker

MENTORING for PROFESSIONAL DIVERSITY in FISHERIES

The Equal Opportunities Section of the American Fisheries Society is sponsoring an award for Mentoring for Professional Diversity in Fisheries. The purpose of the award is to recognize a member of the AFS who has contributed to increasing the diversity of our profession by assisting the professional development of fisheries students or new fisheries professionals from underrepresented groups including women, ethnic groups, and people with disabilities.

The committee believes a mentor should emulate the following:

A mentor guides and empowers a learning partner. A mentor helps to shape and promote a learning partner's career, and is in position to intervene on behalf of the learning partner. A mentor should provide help with networking and goal setting, encouragement as well as a challenge, emotional support as well as intellectual support, and acknowledgement of accomplishments. A

mentor is genuinely concerned with the success of the whole person.

For specific nomination information please contact MaryLouise Keefe, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, (503) 962-3777, FAX (503) 962-3849. **Deadline for submission of nominations is July 1, 1995.**



SURFING the INTERNET

by Charlie Munger

What is the Internet?

It is difficult to define what the Internet is. Essentially, it is a huge number of users, connected machines, software programs, and a massive amount of information spread throughout the world. A recent estimate of the size of the Internet includes 22,000,000 users and 2,200,000 machines with every nation in the world having at least one connection to the net. That means that from your computer you could access weather information in Fiji, check the airline schedules and book your tickets at a local travel agency - all without leaving your office.

The beginnings of the Internet were top secret and based on the threat of nuclear war. The Internet started as a cold war network designed to spread vital information among many computers so if one area was destroyed the information would not be lost. This evolved from strictly a Department of Defense network to one that included many research facilities. It wasn't long before the research facilities essentially took over the network and expanded it to include most universities and government labs. Now the Internet has expanded beyond all predictions. The Internet is now available to anyone with a computer, a modem, and an access point.

What is it used for? or, What's in it for me?

- **Files** Some of the more interesting things you can find on the net are files - lots and lots of files. Archive sites are computers on the Internet that store thousands of files and are accessible to the public. The kinds of files you can find on the Internet include freeware, shareware, books, electronic journals, legal texts, speeches, etc. Often there is much more information than you ever thought of looking for.

- **E-mail** Probably the most well known use of the

Internet is e-mail. E-mail is just an electronic letter and each person with an account has their own individual address. You type it on your machine, address it and send it via your access point. Within seconds your mail can be waiting on the recipient's machine. This is probably the fastest and easiest way to send mail, especially if you have one of the new mail software packages. You no longer have to worry about playing phone tag.

- **Discussion groups** Discussion groups are the fastest growing area of the Internet. Discussion groups are basically message areas concerning a specific topic. The number of topics is growing rapidly and includes almost everything you can imagine from quantum physics to the Flintstones.

- **Information** Massive information databases are also available on the Internet. These databases include census information, satellite maps, genetic codes, and recently an entire map of the human body has been added (this is a huge file - 2 days to transmit at 9600 baud).

How do I get online?

Access to the Internet is available through a variety of points. Traditionally, access meant getting an account through a university or, if your company was connected, through work. These connections are still common. Recently, many of the online services have begun offering Internet access including CompuServe, America Online, Delphi, and Genie. Each of these services provide limited to full connection to the Internet, but each also requires a monthly fee in addition to the membership fee. Computer bulletin boards are now also providing access to the Internet for a fee. Check with local BBS's to see what is available. If you are interested in trying out the Internet, I would suggest you head to your local bookstore and read one or two of the many books now available on the subject. What I have provided is just a very limited introduction to the Internet - basically learning the Internet requires using the Internet. So, buy a book, get online and see what the Internet can do for you.

GET ON-LINE WITH a BBS

by Charlie Munger

Many TCAFS members have modems for their computers but are wondering what to do with them. One way to use the modem is to access an electronic bulletin board. Electronic bulletin boards (BBS) essentially work just like a regular bulletin board except it is accessed long distance through your computer. A BBS will have areas for messages, uploading or downloading

files, and conferences with other callers. Through a BBS, you can access information from all over the country and possibly find answers to common problems. The main idea behind all BBS's is that they require users to make them useful. The more people there are using a BBS, the more potential it has.

All BBS's follow the same pattern for logging on the system. Everyone will be prompted for their name and password. If you are a new user, you will have the opportunity to enter some information about yourself and your computer and select your password. When a password is selected, write it down. If you forget your password you are out of luck since any respectable system operator will never give out a password even if you sound totally honest. Use of a computer bulletin board is very simple. All boards are menu driven to some extent so you just need to dial the number and let the board assist you. One of the first areas you might check is the Bulletins area. This is where the operator posts information about the board and file areas.

If you have been reading your Fisheries magazine or the Fisheries Action News you may have noticed that the Parent Society AFS is now on CompuServe. If you do not belong to CompuServe and would like to access the AFS Section, you can get a free CIS subscription by phoning 1-800-848-8199 and asking for representative #190. The free temporary membership (which includes \$15 free connect time) is courtesy of the Earth Forum on CompuServe. After your free subscription expires you can purchase a regular CompuServe membership at the standard price of \$8.95 per month.

Listed below are some BBS's that may be of interest to AFS members. Try some out, you may find that you like it.

Biological Impact Assessment 800-624-2723, Colorado Research Library Alliance 303-758-1551, FED-WORLD Gateway 703-321-3339, Florida Fishline 904-488-3773, Gulf Fisheries Council BBS813-228-2738, Labor news BBS 202-219-4784, Minnesota Lakes Management BBS 612-296-8811, N. American Lake Management Society 612-783-9064, National Agriculture Library 301-504-5111, Navigation Information BBS 703-313-5910, TPWD Region 1 Office 915-651-4752, TPWD Region 2 Office 817-867-0661, TPWD Region 3 Office 903-566-6924, TPWD/TOWA Austin Line 1 512-389-4430, TPWD/TOWA Austin Line 2 512-389-4431, US Geological Survey 703-648-4168, USFWS National Ecology Research Center 303-226-9365, Wisconsin Lakes Management BBS 608-267-7551.



MEET OUR STUDENT MEMBERS

by Beverly A. Villarreal

Jessica Franks was born in Houston, Texas, but will be calling Denton, Texas, her home in the fall when she begins working toward a Ph.D. degree at the University of North Texas. Jessica will be studying wetlands and plans to graduate in three to four years. After completing her degree, she would like to teach at the university level. Jessica became interested in aquatic biology when she returned to college in 1990, intending to complete a B.S. only, but then became motivated to obtain a master's degree as well. Her work as a graduate teaching assistant further compelled her to seek a Ph.D. degree so she could continue teaching and doing research at the university level. Jessica was an Alpha Chi Honor Society member in 1993, a Sigma Xi Research Society member in 1995, and will be a member of the adjunct faculty at Panola College in Carthage, Texas, during the summer of 1995. Jessica has been a graduate teaching assistant at Stephen F. Austin State University since graduating *cum laude* in 1993 with a B.S. degree.

David Cowen is from Nacogdoches, Texas, where he is working toward a master's degree in aquatic biology at Stephen F. Austin State University. David expects to graduate in December and call it quits on the educational goals because "I am too tired to do anything else." The U.S. Forest Service recently hired David to work as a fisheries technician and he plans to pursue this field and organization as opportunities become available. David has a very simple explanation for pursuing fisheries as a career interest and sums it up this way, "I like being wet." David is vice president of the student chapter of the American Fisheries Society at Stephen F. Austin and is an associate member of the Texas Academy of Science.

Jason A. Cooper is from Farmers Branch, Texas, and just completed a B.S. degree in zoology in May. He plans to stick around Stephen F. Austin University and enter the master's degree program in the aquatic biology department. His career goals include working for a government agency (EPA, TNRCC) to become acquainted with federal and state laws before pursuing employment for a major corporation. Jason has always been interested in the biological sciences, especially those pertaining to the aquatic environment, and has chosen to specialize in water chemistry. While still in his undergraduate degree coursework, Jason was selected to conduct physiochemical and heavy metal analysis for the Texas Regional Institute for Environmental Studies Project at Ft. Polk, Louisiana.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

by Dick Luebke

Texas Chapter scholarships are again going to be available in 1995. Nomination information has been sent to university representatives for both undergraduate and graduate categories. Last year the Chapter was able to give three \$500 scholarships. We hope to be able to at least match that again in 1995. Application guidelines should be available through any university representative or contact Dick Luebke at (210) 866-3356. The application **deadline is July 1**. Student members should be especially aware of this opportunity!



WANTED: CORRESPONDENCE COURSES in FISHERIES and RELATED FIELDS

The Society's Continuing Education Committee has been exploring different ways in which we can provide members with training opportunities. To date, nearly all Society-sponsored courses are given at meetings of the Parent Society or subunits. While these formats can be effective, they may not be readily accessible to all members.

For certain subjects, correspondence courses may provide training opportunities that would otherwise not be available. Many universities offer a variety of correspondence courses, but fisheries and aquatic ecology offerings are practically nonexistent.

The Continuing Education Committee is seeking the help of instructors who are teaching or have taught fisheries related courses that can be reformulated into a correspondence format. If you think that one or more of your undergraduate or graduate courses, or inservice courses have the potential as correspondence courses, the Committee would appreciate hearing from you. We recognize that course revisions may require considerable effort and costs, for which funds may be available. To further explore potential courses, contact:

Bob Carline
Merkle Laboratory
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-4511
FAX: (814) 863-4710, E Mail: f7u@psuvm.psu.edu



WE LANDED ON THE MOON AND...

by Joe N. Fries

Have you ever wondered what to do with all the leftover beer kegs from an Annual Meeting? Have you ever been embarrassed going into a brewery, wearing your white labcoat, asking for free beer kegs? Have you ever had to justify the purchase of hundreds of beer kegs using agency funds? Well, way back in July 1969, an article was published in *Limnology and Oceanography* 14 (4):634-637 that could address these very questions (some of us also watched the Apollo 11 crew on the first moonwalk ever, but they took no aquatic samples). The authors of the article stated a need for a 60-L water sampler that was rugged and simple to operate, was convenient for one person to use from a low hydroboom without the aid of a crane, had a short turnaround time at the surface, was lightweight and compact, and reasonably low in cost. Being the innovative field-scientist-types, they came up with a modified beer keg as the sampling device to meet their needs. They had used their altered-keg for collecting over 100 samples from depths beyond 13,000 feet and had no serious problems. These days, to avoid confusion and to meet safety regulations, we might need to label the keg-sampler, especially if we transport it in an agency vehicle.



RESTORATION OF DESERT SPRING WETLANDS AT BALMORHEA STATE PARK

by Gary Garrett

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department is involved in a two-year project to restore a spring wetland (cienegas) at Balmorhea State Park. It will provide protected habitat for two endangered fishes as well as for many other native animals and plants. The project is supported in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Educational Foundation of America.

Members of the community, local schools as well as conservation biologists and ecologists are encouraged to participate in this project. Those interested may contact Dr. Gary Garrett at the TPWD HOH Research Station (210-866-3356). The cienega will cover approximately 3 acres and will include an underwater viewing area, observation deck, interpretive signs and related educational materials. The community and state park visitors will benefit from this living exhibit relating the history and the importance of springs, water and wetlands for fish, wildlife and people in West Texas.

These important natural wetlands were disrupted more than 50 years ago, when the Civilian conservation corps created a large swimming pool at San Solomon Springs. Later, this facility became Balmorhea State Park. While the CCC improvements provided welcomed recreation to the community and park visitors, it replaced the highly productive ecosystem and natural springs that were home to many species. The now endangered Pecos gambusia and Comanche Springs pupfish lost valuable natural habitat while many native plants and animals "held-on" in other desert marshes.

As natural resources dwindle, the need to protect and build appreciation for Texas' vanishing native species has increased. The desert spring restoration project will serve a dual purpose of habitat reclamation and resource education.



TCAFS EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

by Kathy Ramos

An Executive Committee meeting was held on 18 April, in San Marcos. Members in attendance were Pat Hutson, Lance Robinson, Mike Reed, Malcolm Johnson, Mark Webb, Richard Ott, Ray Whitney, Bobby Whiteside, Steve Magnelia, Joan Holt, Mark Stacell, Beverly Villarreal, Dick Luebke, Ronnie Pitman and Kathy Ramos. The Treasurer's report was called for and delivered. Current Chapter assets including checking account and investment portfolio are \$27,772.92. Total gains from the last EXCOM meeting in January were \$1,726.85.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Steve Magnelia set the next newsletter deadline at 15 May 1995. He encourages members who would like to submit articles to contact him. The committee agreed that using bulk mailing would be the most cost effective way to send out the newsletter. Widening the audience was also discussed. There will be a call for members who are interested to act as "reporters".

Mark Webb reported that plans for this year's meeting are well underway. He is working on the professional development seminars and is looking for input on who the speakers should be and the topics that can be covered in this format. The focus of this event will be diversity. Mark will be sending out a personal letter to groups and entities that should know about the Chapter and its goals. It will also be a first call for papers. There have been suggestions made that the recreational events at the meeting be used as fund raisers for student travel stipends. The hotel rates will be \$55.00 single and \$70.00 double. The possibility of having an informal poster session was discussed.

Lance Robinson is working on revamping the Texas Fisheries Workers Directory. There has been a software program developed in Florida that may be applicable to this task in Texas. The Texas Chapter may be used as a test case.

As of April 18, the editorial committee had not received any manuscripts of presentations made at last year's meeting.

Dick Luebke reported that the Endowments Committee will issue a first call for applications or nominations by the end of April.

Ronnie Pitman has recorded 262 memberships paid for 1995, 33 of these are student members.

Bobby Whiteside is compiling a list of possible candidates for the offices of President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations should be in by May 15. Candidates will be contacted and asked to supply a brief resume for publication in the next newsletter.

Malcolm Johnson is working on minor revisions to the pond management booklet. He has received good

responses from committee members and feels that it is still a viable document.

Richard Ott and Mark Stacell of the Publicity/Exhibits committee have put together a letter to send to potential sponsors. Efforts will be made to coordinate space allocation between the registration and trade show areas. They plan to stress the fact that this year will be the 20th anniversary of the Chapter's existence.

Mike Reed reported that member response to the request for comments on the 1991 position statement on grass carp was good. Most requested an update with more substance. A new statement was drafted and a motion was passed to accept. Dick Luebke mentioned that it would be good for Mike to attend an upcoming meeting of the Exotic Species Task Force, May 17.

There are minor changes to be made in the Procedures Manual according to Joan Holt. The committee decided to add Student Outreach as a standing committee in the Chapter Bylaws. The latest version of the Bylaws will be published in the newsletter for member review before voting. All changes will need the approval of the parent society.

Ray Whitney reported that the Guide to Developing Urban Fishing Programs draft is nearing completion and will be ready to circulate at the next meeting. Beverly Villarreal has made a couple more mail outs of materials to universities and is trying to keep up the flow of student oriented articles for the newsletter. Those published so far have been well received.

OLD BUSINESS

Loraine gave the group an update on the Continuing Education course that the Chapter will sponsor. A one day GSI course would be possible and worthwhile according to Fred Jensen of TPWD. The possibility of holding it in conjunction with the annual meeting was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Pat reported that the Florida Chapter AFS is sponsoring a Bridge to Mexico meeting at the 1995 annual meeting of the AFS in Tampa. They are asking all chapters to make a donation to help sponsor 10-12 scientists from Mexico. Monies collected would help defray travel and lodging expenses. A motion was made and passed to donate \$500.00.

The 1997 Mid Year Meeting of the Southern Division of the AFS, February 20-23, 1997 will be sponsored by the Texas and Oklahoma chapters. Dick Luebke was named Chairman of the Arrangements Committee.

Arlington, Texas will be the site of the 1996 Aquaculture America meeting February 14-17. The Texas Aquaculture Association will hold its annual meeting in conjunction. At this time it is unclear how the Texas Chapter AFS can be involved.

The next EXCOM meeting will be on July 11, 1995.

TRIPLOID GRASS CARP EVALUATION in PRIVATE WATERS

by Clell Guest

This is a partial summary of information collected through 1994 to evaluate the effectiveness of triploid grass carp as a biological control of aquatic vegetation in Texas ponds. This completes the second year of a four year study.

In January 1992, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department allowed the use of triploid grass carp for control of aquatic vegetation in private waters through a permit system. Through 1994 there have been 4, 037 permits issued and 104,704 triploid grass carp approved for stocking in Texas ponds.

Triploid Grass Carp Permits

	1992	1993	1994
No. issued	1658	1203	1176
No. of grass carp	44356	33224	27124

The present study was initiated in 1993 and requires cooperators to inspect ponds for types and abundance of vegetation present prior to triploid grass carp introduction (pre-inspection) and for 2 years following their introduction (post-inspections).

A total of 404 ponds have been pre-inspected in this study through 1994. The total coverage of aquatic vegetation in ponds prior to triploid grass carp introduction averaged 50%.

The following table lists the top 7 plant types out of 40 types identified in study ponds prior to triploid grass carp introduction.

Vegetation Statistics (before introduction)

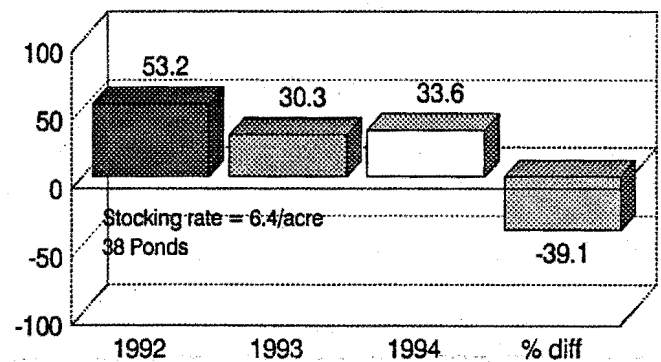
Vegetation type	1992		1993		1994	
	No. of ponds	%	No. of ponds	%	No. of ponds	%
najas	28	38	90	36	56	35
chara	23	16	50	30	61	18
pondweed	6	27	46	20	35	10
algae	22	9	39	12	57	11
primrose	12	4	27	6	44	9
cattail	10	4	26	8	35	5
coontail	6	18	26	34	29	28

Total Coverage

Total coverage of aquatic vegetation in the 1992 ponds showed an overall reduction of 39% two years after triploid grass carp introduction. However, vegetation did not continue to decline the second year of the survey. Since this data set contained information from only 38 ponds, comparison of effects from different factors were limited. Seventy-eight % of the ponds in this data set had been treated with chemicals at some time during the three year survey period.

Total Coverage ('92 Ponds)

Aquatic Vegetation

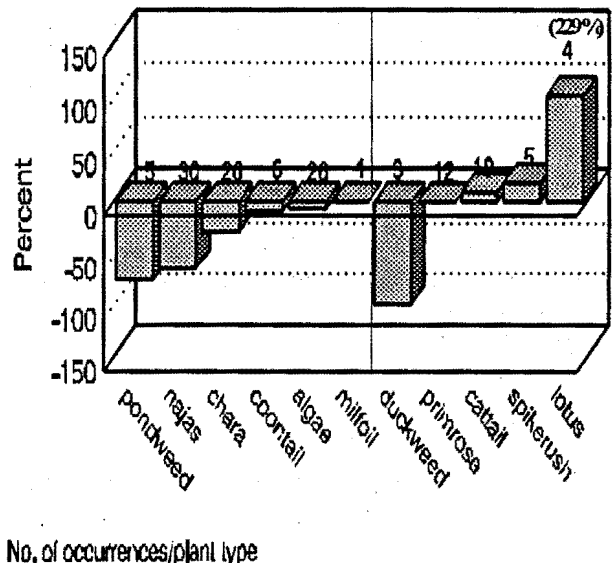


Percent Change-Vegetation Types

Najas was found in 79% of the 1992 ponds and average percent reduction 2 years after triploid grass carp introduction was 63%.

Percent Change (1992 ponds)

Aquatic Vegetation in 38 ponds (thru 1994)



Chara and algae were also frequently found in these ponds, but % reduction for these two plant types was only 28 and 5 %, respectively. Emergent plant types increased during the study period, except for duckweed. Duckweed was found in 3 ponds, all of which had been chemically treated.

Chara, algae, coontail, milfoil, pondweed, and najas were the dominant submersed aquatic vegetation plant types found in these ponds. In ponds where a particular plant type did not change over the two year period, these ponds were placed in the increased category. Chara was present in 68 % of the ponds, but average relative abundance was not high. Overall, this plant type declined marginally over the two-year post-inspection period. However, chara was reduced an average of 79% in 62% of the ponds, but increased 150% in 38% of the ponds. Algae was also present in 68% of the ponds. Overall algae declined markedly the first year after triploid grass carp introduction, but increased the second year. Algae did decline in 42% of the ponds, but increased in 58% after two years of potential triploid grass carp control. Coontail, a problematic plant species that triploid grass carp reportably does not prefer was only present in 6 of the ponds. Coontail abundance declined in two ponds, both treated with chemicals, and increased in the other four ponds. Milfoil was present in only one of the ponds and there was no change in its abundance during the 2-year post-inspection period. Pondweed was present in only 13% of the study ponds, and reduction of this plant type averaged 75% overall. Control of pondweed occurred in 3 of the 5 ponds and its abundance was low in the other two ponds and did not change during the study. Najas was found in 79% of the ponds and initial abundance averaged 35% which was higher than any other plant type. It was also the plant type that was reduced most successfully over the study period Najas was reduced an average of 81% in 77% of the ponds it was found. Also, when initial abundance of najas was > 50% (8 ponds), average % reduction was 78% two years after triploid grass carp introduction. Najas did increase in abundance in 23% of the 1992 ponds.

1993 Ponds

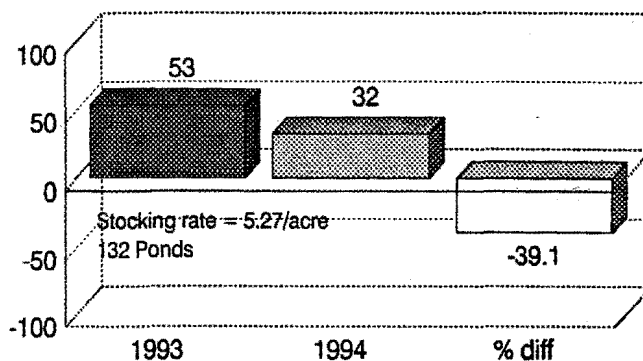
Ponds pre-inspected in 1993 were more numerous (187) and more dispersed around the state. However, the number of these ponds post-inspected in 1994 dropped to 132.

Total Coverage

Total coverage of aquatic vegetation in 1993 ponds showed a remarkably similar decline as the 1992 ponds.

Total Coverage ('93 Ponds)

Aquatic Vegetation



Grass Carp Stocking Evaluation

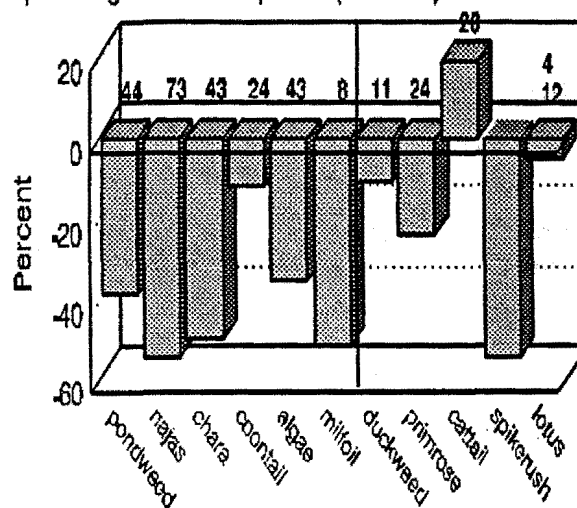
Vegetation was reduced in 82% of the 1993 ponds and % reduction averaged 52%. In general, vegetation control was more successful in ponds 20 acres or less in size. Fish 10-13 inches in length were the most common-sized stocked and appeared to give adequate control of vegetation. An increase from 2 to 5 fish/acre stocking rate appeared to improve control of aquatic vegetation. However, when change in total coverage was compared to number of fish stocked per initial vegetated acre, no trend was noted.

Percent Change-Vegetation Types

Najas was the most abundant plant type found in the 1993 ponds, occurring in 55% of the ponds inspected. Average reduction of najas was 55%.

Percent Change (1993 ponds)

Aquatic Vegetation in 132 ponds (thru 1994)



No. of occurrences/plant type

Generally good control (>50 % change) of chara and milfoil were also noted. Some control of emergent plant types also occurred.

Chara abundance was reduced 74% in 60% of the ponds it occurred which is similar to the response seen in the 1992 ponds. **Algae** abundance was also reduced in 60% of the ponds. Control of **coontail** (30% reduction) occurred in only 50% of the ponds it was found. **Milfoil** did not occur frequently in ponds, but control occurred in 75% of them; however, three of the six ponds had been chemically treated. **Pondweed** occurred more frequently in 1993 ponds than in 1992 ponds. Overall, reduction of pondweed averaged 39%, but good control (74% reduction) occurred in 60% of the ponds this plant type occurred. Overall, **najas** was reduced an average of 55%, and control of najas (75% reduction) occurred in 75% of the ponds it was found. When initial abundance of najas was > 50% (22 ponds), average reduction was 72%. Chemical applications were only made in 15% of the ponds containing najas.

The previous discussion concerned changes in abundance of a particular plant type irregardless of other plant types present in a particular pond. Its obvious that responses of a particular plant type to triploid grass carp predation could be affected by other plant types present. So data were partitioned to determine the change in abundance of the five major submersed plant types (najas, chara, algae, pondweed and coontail) when found singularly or in combination with the five other plant types in the 1993 ponds.

When najas, chara, and algae were found alone, good control occurred; however, poor control of coontail occurred. In the najas-chara combination, najas was reduced an average of 81% in the 6 ponds, while chara abundance increased 19%. When najas was present with most other plant types, satisfactory control of najas occurred except in the najas-chara-pondweed and the najas-algae-pondweed combinations. Presence of najas had a negative effect on chara control when found together except when pondweed was also present. When najas was not present, adequate control of chara occurred with other plant types present. Good control (> 50% reduction) of algae occurred only when it was found alone.

1994 Ponds

There were 178 ponds pre-inspected in 1994 and average % total coverage was 45%. In 1994, chara and algae instead of najas were the most frequently occurring plant types and coontail was found more frequently than in previous years' sets of ponds. Najas was still the plant type found in highest abundance.

Summary

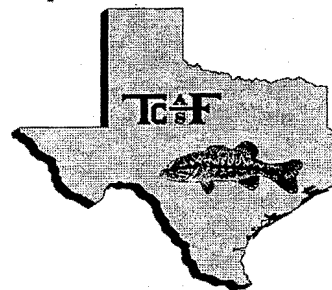
To date, it appears that the principle factors affecting the success of triploid grass carp as a biological control of aquatic vegetation in Texas private ponds is the plant type(s) and amount present. Range of stocking rates (1-7 fish/acre) is probably too narrow for effects to be determined in this type of study. The majority of the ponds were stocked at 5 to 7 fish/acre.

Editors Note: Due to space limitations the data presented here is a fragmented version of a much larger work. Those interested in the complete version should contact Clell Guest in the Fort Worth Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries Management Office. My thanks to Clell for allowing us to share his work with our members.



WANTED: A FEW GOOD REPORTERS

Do you feel the need to regularly vent a ton of bottled up creativity? What? And you don't mind not getting paid for it? If so I need your help. I'm looking for people to regularly write a piece for the newsletter. Since TCAFS is made up of a diversity of Fisheries professionals it would be nice if the newsletter reflected this. Please call me at (512) 353-0072 if you'd like to help.



TCAFS CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY

1995 marks the twentieth anniversary of the chapter. This coincides with the 125th anniversary of the parent society. The first TCAFS meeting was held in 1976 at Lake Brownwood. The Chapter President that year was Ed Bonn.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL
TEXAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

for the 1994 calendar year

for the 1995 calendar year

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Work phone _____ Home phone _____

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Affiliation _____

Check the two that apply:

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(full-time students only)

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Non-AFS Member

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Kathy T. Ramos
11045 Spur 164
Tyler, Texas 75709

If you have an interest in serving on a committee, check one (or more) of the following:

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Exotic Species

Student Outreach

Editorial

Membership

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Procedures Manual

Fisheries Workers Directory

Endowments

Nominating

Newsletter

Urban Fishing

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Steve Magnelia

P.O. Box 947

San Marcos, Texas 78667-0947

512-353-0072

Newsletter submission deadlines:

May 15, 1995.....June Issue

July 15, 1995.....August Issue

August 1, 1995.....Special Meeting Issue

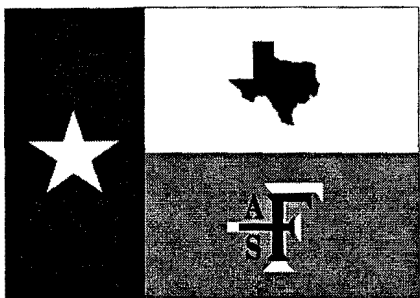
Submissions are encouraged. Both a hardcopy and a MS-DOS compatible diskette should be submitted. Disks will be returned.



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