

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Spring 2023 Newsletter
Volume 49, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHRIS MACE



TCAFS 2023 is in the books and was a memorable meeting in Corpus Christi!

We hosted 268 registered members (196 professionals and 72 students) and sold 11 additional banquet tickets. Considering we were capped at 280 due to the venue's size, that is a fantastic turnout!

The event began on Thursday, with continuing education workshops and a field trip. "Writing, Reviewing, and Revising: A Survival Guide for Peer-Reviewed Journals", and "Ecology, Status, and Research Techniques of Crayfish in Texas" were attended by about 100 members. There were 73 people registered for the TPWD marine fish hatchery field trip and tour. The afternoon and evening activities included the poster session and social, as well as a student mixer event.

Friday morning, we began with a plenary session of distinguished professionals, educators, and leading researchers in the Gulf of Mexico. President Tim Birdsong moderated a panel consisting of TPWD's Executive Director, Dr. David Yoskowitz, and four members of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi: Ms. Kris-

tina Alexander, Dr. Jennifer Pollock, Dr. Michael Wetz, and Ms. Christine Hale. The group discussed current and emerging marine fisheries issues and proactive steps taken by the Harte Research Institute to transition research results to inform resource management and policy decisions. The group also discussed modern educational methods employed to better prepare students for natural resources careers.

Over the 2.5-day event, we had 25 professional oral presentations, 24 student presentations, 16 professional posters, and 17 student posters. During the banquet, we gave out 13 student scholarships totaling \$19,500, as well as 28 travel awards (\$150/each). We also awarded our best student presentation and poster from this year during the event, which was a goal to avoid waiting a full year to announce the winners. Presenting, judging, and scoring in one day was a significant achievement that required considerable logistical planning and effort from all involved. We are grateful for all the professionals who stepped up to judge presentations.

At the business meeting, Greg Cummings announced that Steven Bardin and Stephen Curtis were elected president-elect and secretary/treasurer respectively. Congratulations to both of them! Next year's meeting is sure to be a great one under their leadership!

A number of people went above and beyond expectations to make this event happen and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge their efforts. This would not have been possible without Sarah Robertson, Alice Best, Michele Nations, Steven



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ITEMS OF NOTE

- Congratulations to 2023 award winners and scholarship recipients!
- TCAFS memberships can be completed online now! Click [here](#) to start or renew a membership today!

TCAFS 2023

PRESIDENT MESSAGES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

Bardin, Jennifer Butler, Beth Silvy, Tim Birdsong, and the committee chairs and members. Numerous additional volunteers stepped up during the event, and, of course, none of this would have been possible without the significant efforts of past presidents and chapter members like Dave Terre who put the chapter on its course and created the foundation on which we stand.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY STEVEN BARDIN



It's an unbelievable honor to be nominated the President-Elect for the Texas Chapter of American Fisheries Society. The society has felt like my professional home for the past decade and yet there are still so many members I have not had the pleasure of meeting.

I grew up on the shores of Lake Lavon, falling in love with being on the water and fishing creeks, ponds, and the reservoir. In 2005 I left Wylie and headed west to Stephenville to attend Tarleton State University and complete a bachelors in Biology with an emphasis in Freshwater. My sophomore year I was hired by Harrell Arms at Arms Bait Co and Fish Farm Inc. as a pond technician. I moved onto his farm and learned quickly how intense aquaculture life can be. Harrell was one of my first mentors and taught me how to communicate with clients in a non-scientific way, how to be generous and support young professionals, and how to build relationships within the industry. He also taught me so many things that may never be found in an AFS manual, like making a homemade electrofishing boat using golf cart capacitors.

I graduated from Tarleton in 2009 and started a Masters Degree program at Texas A&M in Fisheries Science under Dr. Michael Masser. Sadly that same year Harrell passed away, which led to

me taking on a larger role within his company. This time solidified my desire to work in the private pond industry and to own my own business.

In 2010 I founded Texas Pro Lake Management and started following the dream of being a business owner. Today, I continue to grow TPLM and own a second business, Black Bass Stewardship Group, with my partner Gary Klein. Throughout my career, I have been able to work with private landowners to push their ponds to achieve their goals, teach youth as a Bass Brigade instructor and camp coordinator, educate college students as an adjunct instructor at Tarleton State University, build a community around social media, and create volunteer, collaboration, and research opportunities with my position at Major League Fishing.

I look forward to getting to know more of the membership within our society, hearing your story, and helping you be successful where I can. For the society, I hope to continue pushing us toward financial success which in turn creates more opportunities to support and expand on our student commitments. I hope to help foster and see collaboration among our student subunits using volunteer opportunities and technology to bridge the distance gaps. I hope to bring in more diverse groups of professionals by showing the private industry biologist that TCAFS can be their professional home as well. The TCAFS and its membership accomplishes so many wonderful things each and every year, and being a small part of it is very rewarding.

Please don't hesitate to contact me anytime and know that we are already working on solidifying the location and accommodations of the next chapter meeting. We look forward to announcing our plans in the coming months and to seeing everyone again very soon.

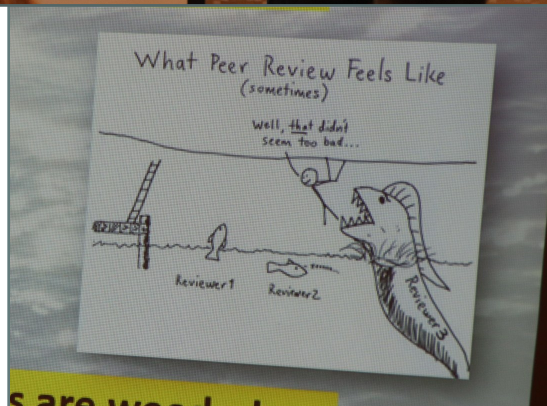
2023 ANNUAL MEETING IN CORPUS CHRISTI



Archis Grubb delivering a Continuing Education workshop on the topics of Ecology, Status, and Research Techniques of Crayfish in Texas.



Dan Daugherty presented the continuing education workshop "Writing, Reviewing, and Revising: A Survival Guide for Peer-Reviewed Journals" and how to overcome the trials and be successful.



TCAFS 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

TCAFS 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

2023 ANNUAL MEETING IN CORPUS CHRISTI



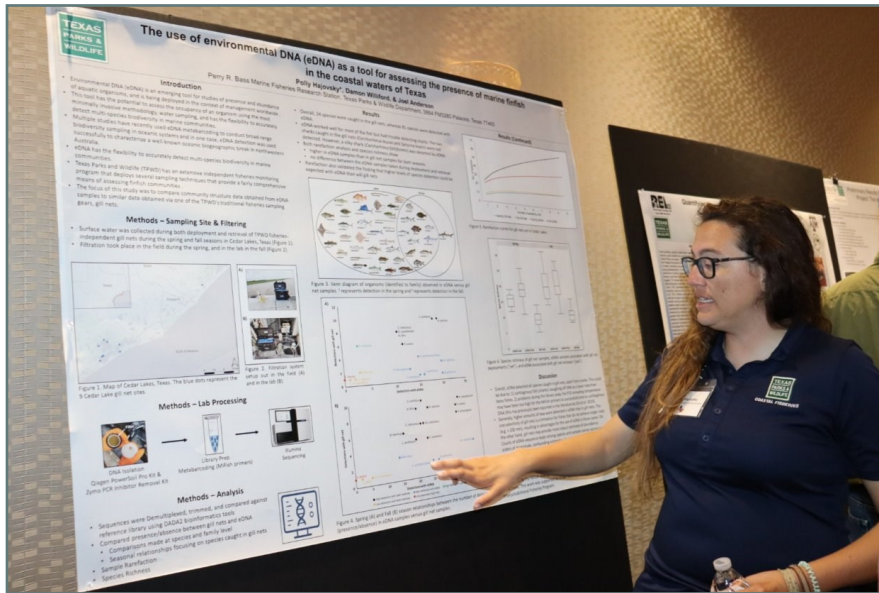
Five student chapters were represented at this year's meeting. Pictured here, student members from Texas A&M University-College Station. Left to right: Jake Wolff and Blake Elzi. Photo by Michele Nations.



Five student chapters were represented at this year's meeting. Pictured here, student members from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Left to right: Jessica Randall and Olivia Robson. Photo by Michele Nations.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING IN CORPUS CHRISTI

TCAFS 2023 ANNUAL MEETING



A total of 33 posters was presented at this year's meeting. Above, Polly Hajovsky, TPWD, presents poster entitled "The use of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a tool for assessing the presence of marine finfish in the coastal waters of Texas." Photo by Michele Nations.



The prized auction item at this year's dinner and awards banquet—a paper mâché anglerfish, complete with a bioluminescent lure. The winner was Thea Frederickson with the Lower Colorado River Authority. Photo by Michele Nations.

TCAFS 2023

DAVE TERRE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

DAVE TERRE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

BY MICHELE NATIONS, TCAFS HISTORIAN

Dave Terre's involvement with the TCAFS began in 1982 when he enrolled at Texas Tech University and his professor suggested giving a presentation at an annual meeting. In 1985, his career with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department began when he was hired as a Fisheries Technician in the Abilene Management office. His career progressed to District Supervisor in San Marcos, then to the Regional Fisheries Director in Tyler, and finally to the Chief of the Management and Research Branch in Austin from 2007 until his retirement from TPWD in 2020.



He received at least 13 significant professional honors or recognitions during his career:

- Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Outstanding Achievement-2009
- TPWD Employee Recognition Award for Partnership-2007
- TCAFS Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the year three times: 1990 and 2006 for Fisheries Management and 2014 for Fisheries Management
- Texas Tech Department of Natural Resources Outstanding Alumni-2011

Dave was very active in AFS:

- As TCAFS President, he was also the General Chair of the 2006 SDAFS meeting in San Antonio,
- He chaired multiple committees, including Endowments where he grew the principle balance for student scholarships to over \$450,000.

Craig Bonds, Inland Fisheries Division Director, said when Dave retired, "Dave's fingerprints have left an indelible and enduring mark upon TCAFS and TPWD Inland Fisheries and also to the quality and diversity of fishing opportunities in Texas. Dave continues to be a tireless advocate and worker on our behalf and for the anglers of Texas. Words are insufficient to fully express our gratitude to him for his positive impacts on the fisheries within Texas."

It was Dave's vision and development of the Endowments fund/committee and his tireless efforts to seek out and nurture part-

DAVE TERRE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED)

nerships with the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation, the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth and others that allowed the Chapter to grow the Endowment fund to over \$450K! Because of his efforts, the Texas Chapter is now able to fund student scholarships and will be able to continue doing so in perpetuity. No other AFS Chapter or even the parent society can make this claim. It's for this reason the Scholarship and Endowments Committees worked with the TCAFS EXCOM this past year to designate and formally name one of the TCAFS scholarships in his honor.

The first Dave Terre Student Scholarship was awarded to Michael Curtis., a University of North Texas doctoral student.



Above, Brian Van Zee (Endowments Committee Chair), Michael Curtis (Scholarship recipient), Dave Terre, Cathy Terre, and Jennifer Butler (Scholarship Committee Chair).

TCAFS 2023
DAVE TERRE
STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP

TCAFS 2023 AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following professional members who were recognized for their contributions over the last year!

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Education**

Marsha Williams—The University of Texas at Tyler

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Student**

Hayden Roberts—Texas A&M University - College Station

Noah Santee—Texas A&M University - College Station

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Fisheries Management**

Lynn Wright—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

Blake Thornton—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

John Ingle—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

Charles Cruz—San Angelo Inland Fisheries Management (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Special Recognition**

Robert Wienecke—Heart of the Hills Fish. Science Center (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Technical support**

Jarrett Burnett—Inland Fisheries Division (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Administration**

Robin Riechers—Coastal Fisheries Division (TPWD)

- **Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year: Research**

Joshuah Perkin—Texas A&M University - College Station

- **Distinguished Service Award**

Ray Mathews, Retired Fisheries Biologist, Receiver of the AFS Golden Membership Award

STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following student members who were recognized for their contributions at this year's meeting!

- **Best Student presentation: Oral**

Emily Meese—Texas A&M University at Galveston

Multivariate analysis of fish communities in Matagorda Bay, Texas



Pictured from left to right: Chris Mace (President Elect), Olivia Reves (Best Student Awardee), Tim Birdsong (President).

- **Best student presentation: Poster**

Olivia Reves—The University of Texas at San Antonio

Evaluation of fish communities on an urban-rural gradient in the San Antonio River Basin from 2016 to 2021



Pictured from left to right: Chris Mace (President Elect), Olivia Reves (Best Student Awardee), Garrett Stampert (TAMU-College Station), Tim Birdsong (President).

TCAFS 2023 AWARDS



TCAFS 2023

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

David Creamer—Texas Tech University

David is originally from Chicago, IL and first became interested in invasive species after observing huge die offs of invasive alewives on the beaches of Lake Michigan. After attending the University of Miami, and managing a genetics lab at Auburn University, he is now a master's student at Texas Tech University. His project involves creating risk assessments of New Mexico and Texas lakes to zebra mussel invasion. After earning his master's, David plans to pursue a PhD in freshwater ecology.



Isabelle Cummings—Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Isabelle is from Wylie, Texas, and moved to Corpus Christi in 2019 to pursue her bachelor's degree in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. She spent the second half of her undergraduate studies interning at the Harte Research Institute to research phytoplankton and water quality, which led her to remain at A&M and the Harte Research Institute for her master's degree under Dr. Gregory Stunz. Currently, she works as a member of the Sportfish Center for Science and Conservation, and her master's thesis involves developing surveys to research southern flounder migration, harvest and effort, and age and length composition in Texas bays. After graduation, Isabelle plans to maintain her position researching fisheries to provide critical data for future fisheries management decisions.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

TCAFS 2023

STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS

Mikaela Feder—The University of Texas at Arlington

Mikaela grew up in Minnesota. Her love of freshwater and fish began as a child as she grew up going to her grandparent's lake home in northern Minnesota. Mikaela earned her bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), where she started her research journey with freshwater fish in both the lab and field. She has a master's degree from Michigan State University (MSU) in



Fisheries and Wildlife. During her time at MSU, she examined alternative methods to manage an invasive species in the Laurentian Great Lakes. Currently, Mikaela is a Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Her work utilizes Trinidadian killifish, *Anablepsoides hartii*, to better understand processes by which organisms adapt to and persist in freshwater systems. The goal of her project is to test the influence of increased predation on stress and reproductive hormones.

Cassandra Rendon—Texas A&M University-College Station

Cassandra is from San Antonio, Texas. She is a student of the Honors College at Texas A&M University- Commerce majoring in Wildlife and Conservation Sciences. Cassandra is also on the Track team as a Discus thrower. She is currently working on an undergraduate thesis with Dr. Bjorn Schmidt studying the effects of a recent



severe drought on fish communities in North Texas. The data she collects from this project will aid in the effort to conserve freshwater fish biodiversity, especially in light of increasing drought conditions due to climate change. After graduating with my Bachelors Degree, Cassandra plans on pursuing a Masters Degree in Fisheries Science as well as continuing her athletic career as a thrower.

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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Hayden Roberts—Texas A&M University-College Station

Hayden began his interest in freshwater fisheries during his undergraduate studies at Coastal Carolina University, where he later had the opportunity to work for several state and federal agencies across the United States in areas including Alaska, Virginia, Illinois, and now Texas. He successfully defended his Master of Science research in May 2022 which investigated the predictors of Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) tributary associations, where part of his master's work is now published in Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. Currently, as a second year PhD student, Hayden is now investigating the distribution, abundance, genetics, and morphology of Llano River Carpsucker (a potentially undescribed catostomid) in the Colorado River basin of Texas. Throughout his graduate studies, Hayden has used various integrated approaches to learn about the ecology of freshwater fishes where his objective is to provide important information for managing threatened species inhabiting Texas rivers and streams. He hopes his multidisciplinary approach in Ecology will provide him with the expertise needed to be a research grade scientist (such as with the USGS or TPWD) after completing his dissertation research.



Lauren Soliz—Texas Tech University

Lauren is a second-year master's student at Texas Tech University. She is from Boerne, Texas and received her bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University. Lauren is studying the effects of invasive riparian vegetation and fish on stream food webs. Her study sites in Del Rio, Texas make up critical habitat for the Devil's River Minnow, a federally threatened species. After graduation, Lauren hopes to transition into the coastal side of fisheries and work with Texas Parks and Wildlife.



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HARRY TENNISON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Wade Wilson—Texas Tech University

Wade is from Coalville, Utah, and received a Bachelor of Science from Utah State University before working as a fish culturist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Wade is currently pursuing a



master's degree in aquatic ecology from Texas Tech University under Dr. Jane Rogosch. Wade's thesis work will examine food web dynamics in the upper Red River and evaluate the relative importance of aquatic and terrestrial food sources to prairie fish species of greatest conservation need. His work will advance understanding of prairie fish feeding ecology and provide new information to aid in their recovery. After completing his master's degree, Wade plans to pursue a career as a freshwater fisheries research biologist focusing on

conservation and restoration of native fish species.

Jacob Wolff—Texas A&M University-College Station

Jacob is from La Grange, Texas. Jacob is a senior at Texas A&M University majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences with minors in Geographic Information Science and Technology, as well as Ecology and Conservation Biology. He is currently conducting two research projects in Dr. Joshua Perkin's Riverscape Ecology Lab along with helping out on other research projects where he can. One project Jacob is conducting is a long-term fish



metacommunity analysis on White Creek- a highly altered tributary of the Brazos River that was rerouted in order to build Easterwood Airport. He will use the findings of this study to identify the impact that this change in natural flows has had on fish communities across different scales. The other research project he is working on is focused on a test of the validity of the R statistical package 'fishmove' in predicting dispersal of Guadalupe Bass in the Colorado and Guadalupe River Basins in order to improve conservation and management of the species. Jacob is currently serving as

the president of the AFS subunit at Texas A&M and upon graduation, he intends on pursuing graduate school, followed by a career in academia.

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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

GUADALUPE RIVER TROUT UNLIMITED SCHOLARSHIP

Berit Batterton—The University of Texas Marine Science Institute

Berit grew up in Baltimore, MD where her proximity to the Chesapeake Bay led her to pursue a bachelor's in Environmental Science and Biology at the University of Pennsylvania. She then joined Dr. Ken Dunton's lab at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute where she is a PhD student. Berit's dissertation work aims to understand the effects of climate change on salt marsh productivity in Texas, with the goal of conserving these crucial fish habitats. In particular, she is working on assessing marshes in the Lavaca and Nueces Deltas using long-term monitoring, field experiments, and mapping. After graduation, Berit hopes to pursue a teaching and research career in the aquatic ecology field at a liberal arts college.



Garrett Tucker—The University of Texas at San Antonio

Garrett grew up in Plano, Texas, where he developed an interest in fisheries science through exploring local creeks during his childhood. This led Garrett to Texas Tech University, where he received a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in fisheries biology. Garrett is currently a second-year master's student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where his thesis focuses on temperature regimes of springs and spring-fed streams in the Edwards Plateau and thermal physiology for spring-associated fishes, both the threatened Devils River Minnow (*Dionda diaboli*) and Rio Grande Darter (*Etheostoma grahami*). His research will provide crucial information on thermal habitat availability within Texas and species-specific vulnerabilities to increasing temperatures, aridity, and decreased spring discharge. Upon completing his master's degree, Garrett hopes to continue in a career in fisheries science that will allow him to work towards the conservation of native fishes for future generations.



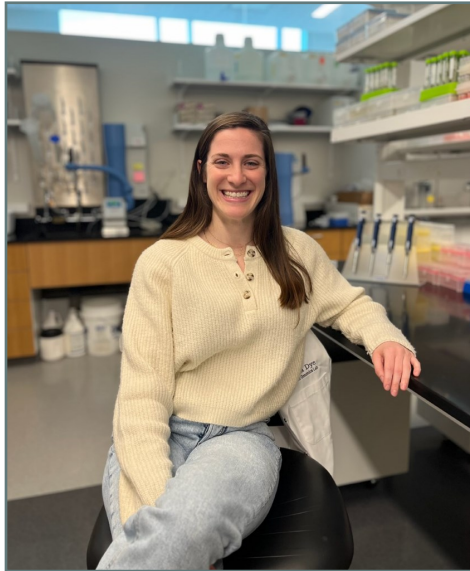
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

CLARK HUBBS AND DAVE TERRE SCHOLARSHIPS

Clark Hubbs Student Scholarship

Kayla Dye—Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Kayla received her B.S., with an emphasis in Health & Medicine, from Webster University in 2018. After spending two years working in a hospital, Kayla interned with the Marine Dynamics Academy in



Gansbaili, South Africa. This internship piqued her interest in conservation genomics and fishes, so she decided to switch career paths. She is now pursuing a master's degree at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi under Dr. David Portnoy. Her current research focuses on conservation genomics of freshwater fishes in the Pecos and Devils Rivers. Kayla is assessing genetic diversity both within and across populations of five species listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the state of Texas, while accounting for differences

in habitat and flow regime. This project will provide critical data for resource managers and conservationists.

Dave Terre Student Scholarship

Michael Curtis—University of North Texas

Michael is a PhD student studying metapopulation dynamics of two federally endangered shiner species in the Upper Brazos. He is an active participant with the American Fisheries Society and is the current president for the University of North Texas Student Subunit and Webmaster for the Estuaries Section of AFS.



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STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

TEXAS CHAPTER AFS SCHOLARSHIP

Hannah Rempel

Hannah Rempel is a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute, with a Master of Science in Biology from California Polytechnic State University. Her current work seeks to address how the ecosystem roles of parrotfishes and surgeonfishes vary in response to local-scale human stressors such as reef degradation and contamination using molecular, isotopic, and palaeoecological techniques. Her previous research includes developing a predictive model of coral healing from parrotfish predation and evaluating how the intensity of parrotfish coral predation varies across the Caribbean in response to differences in parrotfish and coral abundance. Her broader research interests are in how human-related stressors influence the trophic interactions and ecosystem services of marine fishes. In addition to research, she co-developed several Coral Reef Ecology and Conservation lessons for 4-5th grade students that have been implemented by the Texas State Aquarium and the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve.



The University of Texas Marine Science Institute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BY SHAUN DONVAN, SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

As you may have heard, the parent society meeting is coming back to Texas! The 2025 annual meeting will be held August 10-14, at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotels in downtown San Antonio. With this big event coming to town, there's also a big need for volunteers to help with the local planning. While we're still more than two years out from the event, it's important to start filling these roles ASAP to give ourselves plenty of time for planning. Needed roles include organizing symposia and talks, poster session coordination, general scheduling, week of volunteer coordinator, silent auction coordination, fundraising, signage development and tours. AFS headquarters will provide assistance with many of these tasks, but we still need local leads.

If you're interested in joining the local planning team, please reach out to Shaun Donovan at sdonovan@sariverauthority.org or (210)302-3258.



TCAFS 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TCAFS 2023

FEBRUARY 25, 2023 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 11:11 AM by Timothy Birdsong.

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Timothy Birdsong.

Motion to Accept May 19, 2022 meeting minutes: Steven Bardin made motion, Ryan Seymour seconded the motion, motion approved.

Motion to Accept Agenda: Kirk Winemiller made a motion to accept, Tim Birdsong seconded, motion approved.

- Discussion
Brian Van Zee asked if the scholarship numbers were changed in the notes from \$4,500 to \$5,000. These changes to the notes were submitted to the Excom.
- Motion to pass meeting notes with changes that Brian brought forward. Stephen Bardin made the motion and Ryan Seymour made the second. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

President's Report (Timothy Birdsong):

- Tim submitted report to AFS on behalf of TCAFS and to SDAFS
 - Will make these reports and notes available to Chris to continue reporting needs
 - TCAFS is meeting expectations/goals of SDAFS
 - Reports were shared at the SDAFS Excom Meeting and at AFS
- Tim and Dakus coordinated efforts to support RAWA that did not pass. TCAFS and AFS were strong advocates for RAWA
- TCAFS continued to navigate COVID. Dakus hosted a virtual meeting. Tim postponed the 2022 meeting until May and there was an in person and virtual component. There was no virtual component offered this year.
- The post meeting survey helped to inform the planning of this meeting.

President-Elect (Christopher Mace):

- Post meeting survey after Mo Ranch 2022 Meeting results
 - Timeframe for the meeting is best in the Jan/Feb part of the year to accommodate field work and hatchery schedules
 - Thank you to everyone who helped plan and host the meeting
 - TCAFS improved diversity on the plenary panel discussions
 - Should work to have better rotation of meeting locations between coastal and inland areas
 - President-elect will continue to plan meetings
- 2023 meeting numbers
 - Registration total was 268 with 196 professionals and 72 students (11 banquet tickets)
- 2022 meeting numbers
 - Registration total was 202 with 58 students
- Had to increase the registration costs this year because of venue cost

2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Secretary-Treasurer (Sarah Robertson):

- Sarah was not present but was going to add specific financial information later
- TCAFS is doing well financially
 - TCAFS built up buffer funds with 2021 virtual meeting which was helpful to have in the account to pay for this meeting
 - How much should a non-profit keep in the bank account? How much should TCAFS budget for operating and meeting expenses each year?

History (Michele Nations):

- TCAFS was started in 1975 at TAMU, but not recognized by AFS until 1976. 50th Anniversary will be in 2026 and planning has already started.
- Asked Ray Mathews to be co-chair of history committee to help put together information/presentation for the 50th Anniversary Meeting
- They are requesting that photos, stories of past meetings, TCAFS impact on people, and other memories be sent to them to compile.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright):

- Over 40 people attended the Crayfish class this year
- Over 50 people attending the writing class this year
- Looking for ideas for next year

Editorial (Alice Best):

- Alice emailed Tim that there were 48 oral presentations (about half were students) and 33 posters

Endowment (Brian Van Zee) / **Scholarships** (Brian for Jennifer Butler):

- PowerPoint presentation on Endowment performance.
- Endowment balance at the end of 2021 was \$430,639.
- The Clark Hubbs research award has transitioned to the Clark Hubbs Scholarship to be funded on par with existing scholarships at \$1,500.
- Endowment fund took a downturn with the economy, but financial advisor recommended continuing with current investment strategy.
- Financial advisor recommended a total of \$5,000 scholarships per year is sustainable.
- Dave Terre recognized for setting up endowment, and it is proposed to establish a Dave Terre award.
- No deposit to endowment following the 2021 virtual meeting. Will assess in 2022 following meeting.

TCAFS 2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

TCAFS 2023

FEBRUARY 25, 2023 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Internet and A/V (Michele Nations):

- Michele is taking care of the webpage
- Ryan Seymour, TCEQ, has joined the committee and is helping
- Tim said there was still a need for help with this committee, to help with meetings, presentation loading, AV/Tech, etc.
- Requested that Student subchapters provide updated information for the website.
- AFS will have new website format in August.

Membership (Michele Nations):

- She is updating the listserv as membership and registrations come in every year. She receives copies of the registration forms so she can add people.
- Haley is the co-chair. She does the TCAFS Facebook and Job page. Her contact information will be added to the website so members can send her information.

Newsletter (Matt Troia):

- Will be getting a post meeting newsletter out
- Thank you to Michele Nations for helping to distribute the newsletter

Nominating (Greg Cummings):

- Election results for this year
 - President Elect- Steven Bardin
 - Sec/Treasurer – Stephen Curtis
- Thank you to everyone for running for office and for nominations
- Thank you to Sarah for providing membership lists and for providing information about the roles of these positions

Pond Management (Greg Binion):

- Greg Binion emailed Chris that progress was being made on updating the Pond Management manual.

Publicity/Exhibits (Steven Bardin):

- 8 financial sponsors this year for a total of \$9,000:
 - Sponsorship: (Gold) Water Monitoring Solutions \$2000, San Antonio River Authority \$2000, MossBack Product + \$1000; (Silver) Harte Research Institute \$1500, Texas Pro Lake Management \$1000; (Bronze) Sabin River Authority \$500, ETS Electrofishing \$500, Fish On Aquatic Plants \$500.
- Raffle and Silent Auction \$6,468.00 - Needs help with committee next year as he will be stepping down as the chair
- Would like student subunits to have tables set up at no cost for them next year

2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Issues (Timothy Birdsong for Mukhtar Farooqi):

- Mukhtar was not present but emailed an update.
- Kevin Mayes stepped down as chair, and Mukhtar is now the chair.
- Bill Kirby joined the committee, and they need more members.
- No issues to report on this year.

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler):

- About 40 applications this year
- 9 judges this year and always looking for additional judges
- Brian provided amounts and funding sources for scholarships in his update

Student Outreach (Josh Perkin):

- Members of committee are Scott Collins, Haley, Carmen, Niki, Dave Smith, Levi
- Student/Mentor lunch had room for 100 and there was an overflow out of the room this year
- Also UNT chapter hosted a student mixer/trivia night
- Tim Birdsong mentioned to all subgroups that supplies for river cleanups are available through TPWD RACA program and to contract John Botros.

Student Subunit Updates

- **TX A&M – College Station** (Jake Wolf)
 - 20 active members
 - Monthly meetings
 - Participated in Alligator Gar sampling with more electrofishing trips planned
 - There is a big department event coming up
 - Community fishing days are planned as well
- **TX A&M - Corpus Christi** (Olivia Robson)
 - Still trying to regroup after COVID
 - 20-25 members
 - Will be volunteering at the CCA banquet
- **Tarleton State University**
 - No Report

TCAFS 2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

TCAFS 2023

FEBRUARY 25, 2023 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

2023 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

- **Texas Tech University**
 - No Report
- **University of North Texas** (Michael Curtis)
 - 18 active members
 - 1st full active year for group
 - Participating in stream cleanups, haunted 5K, and Coffin race
 - Will be hosting a showing of Hidden Rivers
 - Wants to host cross-subgroup mixers or meetings over zoom throughout the year
 - Hosted the TCAFS student mixer and trivia night

Old Business: No old business

Installation of Officers

- Stephen Curtis elected Secretary-Treasurer
- Timothy Birdsong is now the Past President, Christopher Mace is now President, and Steven Bardin is President-Elect.

New Business

- We are losing candidates for Sec./Treas. Position because there is too much responsibility on one position.
 - Discussion that this position might make better sense to split into two positions. Motion that EXCOM should look at Bylaws, communicate with AFS Constitution liaison, and process needing to happen to split this position.
 - > Randy Rushin made the motion and Michele Nations seconded the motion. Unanimous support from members
- Chris Mace brought up the 2025 AFS meeting that will be in San Antonio
 - Shaun Donovan is heading up the local committee for the meeting and needs 15-20 volunteers to help. Committee needs to be in place by Jan. 1, 2024.

Adjourn: Randy Rushin made the motion to adjourn. Dakus Geeslin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:32 PM.

BEHIND THE SCENES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT..... Chris Mace
PRESIDENT-ELECT Steven Bardin
PAST PRESIDENT Tim Birdsong
SECRETARY-TREASURER Stephen Curtis

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

AWARDS Brittany Chesser
CONTINUING EDUCATION Lynn Wright
EDITORIAL Dave Buzan
ENDOWMENTS Brian VanZee
HISTORY Michele Nations
..... Ray Mathews
INTERNET Ryan Seymour
..... Michele Nations
ISSUES Mukhtar Farooqi
MEMBERSHIP Michele Nations
..... Haley Kokel
NOMINATING Greg Cummings
POND MANAGEMENT Greg Binion
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS Dylan Kwak
SCHOLARSHIP Jennifer Butler
STUDENT OUTREACH Josh Perkin
..... Scott Collins
..... Levi Sparks
..... Margaret Stadig

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matthew Troia

TCAFS
BEHIND THE
SCENES:

EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE
CHAIRS AND
MEMBERS

TCAFS

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

TCAFS NEWSLETTER
Newsletter Editor—Matt Troia
troiamj@gmail.com



TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY PURPOSE AND GOALS

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

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

A message from the newsletter team:

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