

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Fall 2023 Newsletter
Volume 49, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CHRIS MACE



Fall has arrived, and with it the first cold front. Much needed rains are falling along the Texas coast bringing relief to dry conditions and the oppressive summer heat. Students and professors are back to class, and fisheries biologists are out sampling bays, lakes, and rivers. It is a busy time for all.

To add to the busy climate, November 2023 is election season for some political positions across the state, so it's time to brush up on the candidates and proposals on the ballot. Texas is blessed with a long history of supporting our natural resources, but we need to continue to remind our political representatives of the importance of conservation and sustainable resource use. Additionally, there are a couple of noteworthy issues on the November 7 ballot, and I encourage you to be well informed on these items before stepping in to cast your vote.

The following is an excerpt of some Explanatory Statements for the November 7th Constitutional Amend-

ment Election that you may be interested in. You can view the complete text of the ballot language at the link [HERE](#).

The purpose of sharing this with you is not to suggest you vote in favor or against these propositions, but to be aware they are on the ballot. I recommend you read multiple interpretations of the proposed amendments in order to better understand the pros and cons completely.

Proposition 1—HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to protect a person's right to engage in generally accepted farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on real property that the person owns or leases. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management."

Proposition 5 - HJR 3 proposes a constitutional amendment to redesignate the national research university fund as the Texas University Fund (TUF), and to appropriate funds from the economic stabilization fund to the TUF. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy."

Proposition 6 - SJR 75 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas water fund. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional



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ITEMS OF NOTE

- 2024 TCAFS Annual Meeting to be held in Nacogdoches February 22-24th
- TCAFS memberships can be completed online now! Click [here](#) to start or renew a membership today!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES

PRESIDENT- ELECT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.”

Proposition 14 - SJR 74 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the centennial parks conservation fund as a trust fund outside the state treasury. The fund could be used, in accordance with general law, only for the creation and improvement of state parks. The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”

There are a total of 14 proposed constitutional amendments listed on the Explanatory Statements for the November 7, 2023, Constitutional Amendment Election, and you may be interested in some of the others I did not mention here. So again, I highly encourage you to review both the candidates running for positions and the proposed amendments early to make the most informed decision on how to cast your vote.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY STEVEN BARDIN



I am elated to announce that our upcoming annual chapter meeting will be held in Nacogdoches, the oldest town in Texas. As many of you may know, I live on the edge of west Texas, just outside of Abilene in Comanche. Being so far west it feels ironic to be planning a meeting in Nacogdoches. It will be the furthest east the chapter has ever held a solo meeting and our first visit to east Texas since 2015.

Nacogdoches has a storied past beginning with Caddo native American settlements that included a large village, maize agriculture, and a ceremonial center (now known as Washington Square). The Nacogdoche tribe word for friend was “tejas”, so many attribute them to not only naming Nacogdoches

but also Texas itself. The Spanish arrived in Nacogdoches by at least 1542 and set up a mission, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches in 1716. In 1779 Don Antonio Gil Y'Barbo wrote the first civil laws, established streets, and built “the Old Stone House”, officially creating the first Texas town, Nacogdoches. Over the decades the Spanish, French, and eventually Texans disputed over the area. The city has flown nine flags: Spanish, French, Mexican, Magee-Gutierrez Republic, Long Republic, Fredonia Republic, Texas, Confederate States, and United States.

Nestled in the midst of this historic town is the venue for our meeting – The Fredonia Hotel. This iconic establishment, originally built in 1955, has been a focal point of Nacogdoches' social scene for over six decades. The hotel is unlike any chain hotel you have ever visited, it was built using a community stock and bond funding system, where investors could purchase a share for \$100. Over 1000 investors raised \$500,000 to build the hotel. It was designed at the time to be a modern wonder with a “New Orleans” feel. Upon opening it was considered the most successful community owned hotel in the nation. Unfortunately, the late 1960s saw a decline in profitability and

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

the eventual sell of the hotel. It changed hands multiple times before being purchased again by local stockholders in 1989, this time by raising 7.5 million for the purchase and renovations of the hotel. In 2015 the Fredonia was sold to the current ownership group who invested \$18 million in renovations that were completed in 2017. The hotel gives a nod to the history of the area with the Nine Flags Bar, 1st City Café, and the Republic Steakhouse along with amenities that included two pools (one heated year-round), cozy fire pits in the courtyard, and an outdoor movie theatre. The Fredonia boasts not only of its rich history but also of modern amenities that promise to make our stay comfortable and our meeting productive.

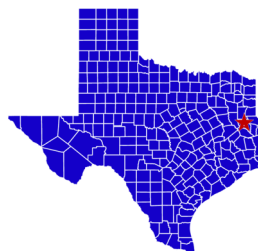
For those who may want to take a break from the meeting's schedule or delve into the local culture, Nacogdoches has a plethora of shops, eateries, and entertainment spots. The streets are lined with quaint boutiques, artisanal shops, breweries, and historic sites that provide a glimpse into the soul of Texas.

Another striking feature of the town is the abundance of water. In the center of Nacogdoches is Bonita Creek which winds through town eventually merging into Bayou La Nana, which feeds Kurth Lake and eventually Sam Rayburn Reservoir. To the west of Nacogdoches lies the 2200-acre impoundment, Nacogdoches Lake, which is fed by Bayou Loco, Caney Creek, Yellow Bank Creek and others. To the east of town lies the Bayou Carrizo, Naconiche Creek, and the Attoyac River. The area reservoirs are managed by the TPWD Inland Fisheries Jasper District headquartered nearby at the Sam Rayburn dam in Brookeland. In that same location is the newest Inland Fisheries hatchery, the John D. Parker East Texas Fish Hatchery.

While in Nacogdoches, it would be remiss not to mention Stephen F. Austin State University. As a hub of education and innovation, this university has been the cornerstone of higher education in East Texas since 1923 and an extraordinary source of student and faculty contributions to the TCAFS. We look forward to the opportunity to explore their community and campus during our time in Nacogdoches.

As we gear up for this annual chapter meeting, I invite each one of you to immerse yourselves not only in the discussions and sessions but also in the rich tapestry of history, nature, and culture that Nacogdoches offers.

Together, let's create memories, forge stronger bonds, and set the course for a brighter future for the fisheries community of Texas.



The 2024 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be held at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches, TX, from February 22-24th, 2024. Photo Credit: Countylinemagazine

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE



TCAFS 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

◇ REGISTRATION

◇ ABSTRACTS

REGISTRATION FOR 2024 ANNUAL MEETING IN NACOGDOCHES

Registration for the conference and room rates at the Fredonia Hotel are still being finalized and will be updated on the meeting webpage [HERE](#). In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the conference hotel, please check out their website [HERE](#).



THE **FREDONIA** HOTEL

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

BY KELLEY KOWAL, EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The 2022 and 2023 meetings saw a record number of abstract submissions; an admirable representation of how productive the Texas Chapter is in promoting fisheries science. In order to maximize the number of oral presentations that may be presented, we will be running two concurrent oral sessions. This will also allow oral presentations to be expanded to 15 minutes for the talk, 3 for questions, and 2 for movement between rooms.

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are due on **Friday, December 15, 2023**. Deadlines this year will be firm, and no extensions will be given. Authors will be notified of abstract acceptance by January 19, 2024.

Don't wait for the Fall to slip by and start your abstracts now! As a reminder, abstracts should be less than 300 words, and you will need the names and affiliations of each author on the paper. With the concurrent format, you will be able to request that your presentation be given in the same room and time block as related research. Please be prepared to provide the speaker and title of other presentations when you submit your abstract. We will do our best to accommodate such requests when possible.

Submit Abstracts [HERE](#)

For additional questions, email Kelley Kowal (kelly.kowal@tpwd.texas.gov).

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Nacogdoches!



OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

BY BETH SILVY, AWARDS COMMITTEE

Once again, we are asking that you acknowledge your peers who may be deserving of the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year (OFW) Award! This award recognizes fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas, which can span more than one year, in the following categories: Fisheries Administration, Fish Culture, Fisheries Education, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Research, Fisheries Technical Support, Fisheries Student, and Special Recognition in Fisheries Work.

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

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

Nominations are due on **Friday, December 1, 2023**. To submit a nomination, please fill out the nomination form [HERE](#), in its entirety, and email it to me at: bsilvy@tamu.edu.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

BY JENNIFER BUTLER

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

Scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each may be awarded to a minimum of two undergraduate students, one Master's student, and one Ph.D. student. One student will be awarded the prestigious Clark Hubbs Scholarship for research that continues his legacy of native fish conservation. One student will be awarded the Dave Terre Scholarship which honors his history of contributions to fisheries and to TCAFS.

Applicants must be current students at the time of scholarship award (February 2024). Students are eligible to receive one award in each degree category during their scholastic career. No nomination is necessary, and more than one student from the same university may apply in each category. Scholarships will be awarded during the 2024 Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting to be held February 21-24, 2024 in Nacogdoches, TX. Scholarship recipients should plan to attend the meeting to receive their award.

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

Applications are due on **Sunday, November 12, 2023** at 11:59PM CST. A .docx and PDF of the application may be obtained from the TCAFS website.

Applications can be submitted as a .docx or PDF by email to:

Jennifer.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov

Please direct applications and questions to:

Jennifer Butler – Scholarship Committee Chair

Jennifer.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov

(979) 292-0100 ext. 225 or text (832) 444-4122

TCAFS 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

◇ NOMINATIONS

◇ SCHOLARSHIPS



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CORNER

SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT SEA CENTER

BY HESTER HUYNH, HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, HOUSTON



My name is Hester Huynh and I am a high school senior from Houston, Texas. This summer, I was accepted into the American Fisheries Society's Hutton Junior Biology Program, as one of 43 scholars nationwide from an applicant pool of 543. The Hutton Program's mission is to bring underrepresented groups into the fisheries field. I was matched with my mentor Jennifer Butler, a Hatchery Biologist at Sea Center Texas, as well as Juliana Moore, the Education and Outreach Coordinator. As an intern at Sea Center Texas, I was immersed in both the scientific and educational sides of the field of fisheries.

As part of the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Sea Center is tasked with aiding the protection of Texas' coastal ecosystems marine resources by supplementing wild populations with millions of spotted sea trout, red drum, and southern flounder a year. This process involves culturing fry in indoor tanks and rearing juvenile fish in outdoor saltwater ponds before releasing them into Texas coastal waters. Under the wing of Jennifer Butler, I was able to experience all steps of this process at least once, from preparing brood stock diet and changing out the pump baskets, monitoring juvenile fish using a dip net, backwashing pumps, feeding juvenile fish, fertilizing ponds, pulling and reading zooplankton, as well as waking up at

4:00 am to harvest and release the fish! Overall, this experience was extremely rewarding and educational.

In addition to my internship, I attended the Hutton Scholar Summit at the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, where I met with 30 other scholars participating in their internships all over North America, including people from Hawaii and New York. We spent the week learning about the programs on campus, visiting the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center, and volunteering at a kids fishing derby! This was an amazing opportunity where I was able to learn from fisheries professionals, such as Dr. Steve Lochmann and Dr. April Croxton (the president of AFS!), who have inspired me greatly to continue my journey to working in fisheries.

During my internship, every day was something new, which is why I have become hooked on this field! We faced challenges such as dangerously low dissolved oxygen levels, dinoflagellate invasions, and even sinkholes! The Hutton program has made me well-equipped to pursue a career in the fisheries field, and I am so grateful for my mentors and for AFS. In the future, I hope to highlight the importance of diversity in environmental education as well as work to protect endangered species and threatened ecosystems in Texas.



SUMMER FIELD TECHNICIAN IN ARIZONA

BY REGAN DOSS, UNDERGRADUATE, UT-SAN ANTONIO



This summer, I had the opportunity to work as an undergraduate field technician for The University of Texas at San Antonio. I had the unique opportunity to sample over a hundred sites throughout the vibrant Colorado River Basin for nonnative Virile crayfish. From observing aquatic populations, conducting habitat surveys, to collecting stream eDNA samples, I learned many new field skills. Under professors Dr. Matt Troia and Dr. Jen Smith, this unique opportunity allowed me to combine my passion for aquatic ecology with my love for exploration, all while contributing to nonnative species management of crayfish.

Our goal was to sample and document aquatic species in various bodies of water throughout the Colorado River Basin. Invasive Virile crayfish, originally from other parts of North America, pose a significant threat to the ecosystems of Arizona and New Mexico. Their presence can disrupt native aquatic life and lead to negative consequences for local biodiversity. Our work wasn't just about sampling and collecting crayfish; it was about understanding their dispersal, habitats, and impact on native species. We meticulously documented our find-

ings, noting the habitat type, water quality, and location of each crayfish encounter. This data will later contribute to GIS mapping aimed at better documenting the movement of this invasive species.

Now, as I reflect on my time as a field technician, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to these conservation efforts of Arizona and New Mexico. My passion for desert stream fish has been deepened and I have grown very fond of the Southwestern US. One of my favorite sites was Sabino Canyon Creek outside of Tucson, Arizona. I enjoyed interacting with the people along the hiking trails, as well as observing various native fishes. Overall, this experience allowed me to observe desert fish species, explore various streams and rivers, and learn important field skills.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CORNER



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CORNER

EXPLORING CAREERS IN FISHERIES SCIENCE BY COREY HOWDEN, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



I became a member of the Texas A&M chapter of the American Fisheries Society in the fall semester of 2023, and my life has taken a remarkable turn since then. This journey began when I transferred to Texas A&M, bringing with me a modest biology background from a local community college. I chose to major in Ecology and Conservation Biology with a specialization in Vertebrate Zoology and added a minor in museum studies, a decision that would open doors to advanced coursework aligning with my academic and career goals.

My pivotal encounter with the Texas A&M Chapter of the American Fisheries Society happened in my Aquaculture 1 class when I met Hannah Evans, the Vice President of the chapter. She introduced me to the chapter's activities and offered insights into the broader AFS organization.

Beyond my involvement with the AFS chapter, I eagerly pursued employment and internship opportunities that broadened my horizons. It was during my first semester when I took Aquaculture 1 that I fell in love with aquaculture and sustainability, two fields intrinsically tied to modern agriculture and aquaculture. The class project involved raising channel catfish throughout the semester, and I found myself deeply invested. After the semester, I stayed on to help release the catfish into a local

pond, part of a partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Inspired by this experience, I approached my professor, Dr. Gatlin, to explore further opportunities at Texas A&M's Aquaculture and Research Facility. He informed me about volunteer positions and the possibility of moving into paid roles. Fast forward to the fall semester of 2023, and I landed a position in Dr. Sinks' lab. In this role, I immersed myself in the world of aquaculture, gaining valuable insights into hatchery self-sufficiency, water sample processing, and the care of the fish.

As the semester progressed, additional opportunities came my way. I enrolled in a class that prepared students for graduate-level thesis work, and I was fortunate to be assigned to Dr. Kevin Conway, the curator of fishes at Texas A&M's Biodiversity and Research Collections. My ultimate career goal is to work in academia, either at the university or museum level, focusing on ichthyology. Dr. Conway played a pivotal role in my journey by connecting me with the Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections, where I started working with fish collections, with the potential for advancement.

I am immensely grateful for the resources and support provided by Texas A&M University. The camaraderie among peers and the encouragement from faculty members opened doors to various organizations and refined my experiences, bringing me closer to my career goals.

For anyone embarking on a similar journey, my advice is straightforward: engage with your peers, reach out to faculty, and actively seek academically enriching opportunities. With dedication and perseverance, my journey is a testament to the incredible possibilities that await those who seize the opportunities offered by institutions like Texas A&M University.

SUMMER RESEARCH TRIP TO GUYANA

BY KENDELL HASTINGS, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



My name is Kendall Hastings, and I am a senior at Texas A&M University from Kerrville, Texas, studying Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences. This summer I had the opportunity to go on an undergraduate research trip to Guyana, South America. I was one of three undergraduates from Texas A&M University selected to go on this trip funded by the National Science Foundation. This was a joint trip with three other undergraduates and professors from Stephen F. Austin University and two professors from Texas A&M University, Drs. Kirk and Leslie Winemiller. My project focused on studying the correlation between ecological niches and morphological characteristics of the neotropical catfish of Guyana.

On the second day of our ten-day trip, we arrived in the Yupukari Village in Guyana, near the Rupununi River. We spent the next week boating up and down the Rupununi to different main channel and pond fishing spots. We fished with seine nets, fishing poles, and handlines. The diversity of our catch included various tiny catfish species which were only a few centimeters in length, weakly electric knifefish, colorful, red-bellied piranhas, and beautiful tiger shovelnose catfish. We caught 30+ catfish species including *Ochmacanthus flabelliferus*, *Pimelodus*

blochii, *Vandellia sanguinea*, and *Platydoras hancocki*.

Since each student on the trip had a different research project focusing on different groups of fish, we brought back almost every species we caught to measure and take tissue samples from later. Usually, we would fish in the morning and arrive back at camp in the afternoon to process our catch. We would take a bit of tissue from each fish caught, drop it in a small bag of salt to preserve it (until we had a freezer available), and label it with the species name, total or standard length, and sampling site number. These samples were to have their carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios analyzed later in a laboratory to determine the trophic position of the fish.

Since my project was also focusing on morphological characteristics, we took 29 different morphological measurements - mouth position, paired fin length and width, median fin length and width, etc. - for almost every member we caught from order Siluriformes. The goal of this is to look for a correlation between the stable isotope ratios/trophic levels of the fish, size of fish, and morphological characteristics. We will be mapping out the trophic position of each fish species based on the carbon and nitrogen ratios. The collected morphological measurements are expected to support each species' trophic level that is inferred from the stable isotope ratio analysis. We will also be comparing the stable isotope ratios of the fish present in the main channel and ponds.

Since returning from Guyana, I have dried and ground the tissue samples we took back with us, and they have been sent to an out-of-state laboratory to have their carbon and nitrogen ratios analyzed. When the results come in, I will begin the data analysis portion of this project. This experience has not only helped me realize the hard work that goes into research, but also the reward and excitement that comes out of it. Thanks and gig'em!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CORNER

SPRING 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

MAY 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TCAFS Spring EXCOM Meeting + 2023 Wrap Up Meeting Minutes

May 10th 10:00 to 11:00 AM via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Brian VanZee, Christopher Mace, Scott Collins, Michael Curtis, Dylan Kwak, Greg Cummings, Haley Kokel, Jennifer Butler, Joshua Perkin, Kelley Kowal, Lynn Wright, Michele Nations, Mukhtar Farooqi, Regan Doss, Ryan Seymour, Lauren Soliz, Steven Bardin, Timothy Birdsong, Matt Troia, Ray Matthews

Meeting called to order: At 10:02 AM

Determination of quorum: Yes, by Christopher Mace

Welcome: (Steven Bardin) Provided a welcome to our EXCOM and expressed gratitude to everyone's hard work

Accept Business Meeting Minutes: (Chris Mace) from 2-25-2023. Discussion related to minor edits to meeting minutes. Michele Nations moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected; Brian VanZee seconded the motion; motion approved.

- Action Item (Stephen Curtis): Send out updated meeting minutes to the EXCOM.

President's Update: (Christopher Mace) Chris provided an update of attendee numbers, presentations, continuing education workshops, scholarships, travel awards and other accolades for the 2023 TCAFS Meeting (see full update in the Spring 2023 Newsletter). Thank you to Sarah Robertson, Alice Best, Michele Nations, Beth Silvy and many others who stepped up to make the 2023 TCAFS Meeting a success

Secretary/Treasurer Update: (Stephen Curtis) 2022 Financial Summary

Provided a summary of 2022 financials. Including update from AFS on procedure to split Secretary/Treasurer position. Provided an overview of the process for splitting this position. Chris will serve as the point of contact for AFS Management Committee. Discussed a staggered approach to two-year terms for the Secretary and Treasurer position; Brian agreed that this would be a good way to operate. Matt Troia offered to fill the vacant position or run for a special election depending on how we move forward. Action Item (Stephen C.): Send revisions of bylaws to the EXCOM along with confirmation of process for implementation/next steps

Committee Chair Updates :

Awards: (Brittany Chesser, Beth Silvy) Brittany stepping down as committee chair; Beth confirmed that she's happy to serve as chair for the Awards Committee.

Continuing Education: (Lynn Wright) Leslie Hartman contacted Lynn and expressed interest in a continuing education session next year at the 2024 TCAFS Meeting.

Editorial: (Dave Buzan) Dave will continue his role of compiling the proceedings for each TCAFS Meeting; he has completed 2021 and 2022 – they need to be posted to our website. Alice will be stepping down as co-chair for the Editorial Committee; she recommends that we expand the committee to include multiple people and appoint another co-chair. Alice also recommends that we discuss the responsibility of presentation loading with a potential shift to the Internet & AV Committee.

2023 Meeting summary: Total abstracts – 82; 41 student and 41 professional; 49 oral and 33 poster; student: 24 oral and 17 poster; professional: 25 oral and 16 poster.

- Action Item (Chris Mace): Follow up with Kelley Kowal/Preston Bean to select a co-chair for Editorial Committee

MAY 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Endowments: (Brian Van Zee) Brian meeting with Edwards Jones to discuss the status of our investment account; possibility of switching our investment account to a different type of account to allow for greater flexibility

History: Michele Nations and/Ray Mathews. Michele working with Ray Matthews to prepare a document summarizing TCAFS 50th Anniversary

- Action item (All): Ray requesting field photos of Texas Chapter members; send to Michele Nations.

- Action item (Dave Buzan): Find proceeding #41 (2019)

Internet & Audio/Visual: (Ryan Seymour and/or Michele Nations) Ryan Seymour now has access to the website, will be working with Michele to learn how to edit/update website over the next few months. Multiple updates coming over the next few weeks to the website including, Officers Contact Page: Name, Affiliation and Email only will be provided Meetings Page. Updated to include the 2023 Corpus Meeting Photos, Award Winners and Summary. Will be developing Subtopics highlighting the following: Upcoming Meeting, Past Meetings, Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting, Parent Society Annual Meeting, Newsletter. We are going to work on getting older newsletters (pre 1996) to the website to help highlight the history of the Chapter. Will be adding a New Heading titled "News" to the main page to highlight various aspects of the chapter: Announcements, Members in the News, Policy, News, Newsletters, Press Releases. Ryan Seymour (and any new committee members) will take over uploading presentation for Annual Meeting. Role was previously task to Editorial Committee.

- Action Item (Ryan S.): Ryan Seymour will get with Tim Birdsong to get Camtasia Software to record presentation podcast for annual meetings.

Issues: (Mukhtar Farooqi) No issues to report.

Membership: (Michele Nations and/or Haley Kokel) 245 members: 41 were interested in committees (Michele Nations). Haley working on a questionnaire for students to complete highlighting their research; working on social media posts; has shared job opportunity posts

Newsletters: (Matthew Troia) Spring newsletter is 99% complete; will get to Michele this week and then out to the members.

Nominating: (Greg Cummings) No updates; on stand-by in case we need to do a special election for the Secretary or Treasurer position

Pond Management: (Greg Binion?): Progress continues on revisions to the TCAFS Pond Management Manual; completed draft will be circulated to PM committee for internal review. Greg will possibly be stepping away as the PM committee chair.

- Action Item (Chris Mace): Follow up with Greg Binion/Todd Sink to select committee chair

Publicity & Exhibits: (Dylan Kwak) Looking forward to serving as committee chair.

Scholarship Committee: (Jennifer Butler) No update; planning to reach out to several individuals on the Excel file

Student Outreach: (Joshuah Perkin) Planning to reach out to Beth Silvy & Jane Rogosch to assess interest in serving on the Student Outreach Committee. Compiling information on the student subunits

SPRING 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

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MAY 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Student Subunit Updates:

- Tarleton State: (Chad Brock) No updates.
- Texas A&M College Station: (Lucas Stevens/Josh Perkin) No updates.
- Texas A&M Corpus Christi: (Olivia Robson/Ben Walther) No updates.
- Texas Tech: (Lauren Soliz/Scott Collins) No updates. Subunit elects officers in the fall; average membership of 20-25 people. Focus on facilitating a mentor relationship between graduate students and undergraduates; conducts field work training
- University of North Texas: (Michael Curtis/David Hoeinghaus) Thank you for field clean up bags!
- University of Texas San Antonio: (Regan Doss/Matt Troia) New subunit; focuses on field sampling techniques. Waiting to receive word that they are officially registered through our parent society.
- University of Texas Tyler: (Ryan Shartau) UT Tyler is still working to establish their student subunit.

Old Business: Notifying student travel award winners (Olivia Reeves and Emily Meese)

- Action Item (Stephen C.): Contact Beth Silvy & Chris M. to coordinate an email to Olivia and Emily to notify them of their student travel award

New Business: 2024 Meeting Location Discussion Temple TX Hilton Garden Inn (Steven B.). Provided an update on identifying the location for the 2024 TCAFS Meeting. 2024 Society Meeting San Antonio Update (Shaun Donovan) not present.

Vacant Committee Chairs: Co-chair for Editorial, Chair for Pond Management, Chair for Awards? (Chris Mace)

- Action Item (Chris Mace): Will follow up with vacant committee chairs & co-chairs

Close Meeting: Brian VanZee motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM



SEPTEMBER 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

TCAFS Summer EXCOM Meeting Minutes

September 11th 10:00 to 11:00 AM, Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Christopher Mace, Steven Bardin, Beth Silvy, Brian VanZee, Scott Collins, Michael Curtis, Dylan Kwak, Greg Binion, Greg Cummings, Haley Kokel, Jennifer Butler, Joshua Perkin, Kelley Kowal, Lynn Wright, Joe Martin, Matt Troia, Michele Nations, Mukhtar Farooqi, Preston Bean, Ray Matthews, Regan Doss, Ryan Seymour, Shaun Donovan, Lucas Stevens, Ben Walther, Stephen Curtis

Call to Order: (Steven Bardin) Meeting called to order by Steve Bardin, 10:00 AM

Approval of the agenda: Agenda emailed ahead of meeting; no requests for updates.

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Stephen Curtis.

Approval of Spring EXCOM Meeting Minutes from 5-10-2023: Ryan Seymour motion to accept meeting minutes, second by Mukhtar Farooqi; motion approved.

President's Update: (Christopher Mace) Parent society provided updated list of AFS members that are TCAFS members. Working on annual summary for the parent society.

President-Elect Update: (Steven Bardin) Provided an update of activities to identify a location for the 2024 annual meeting. Ryan Seymour asked about options for continuing education outside of the sessions we offer at the TCAFS Meeting. Brian VanZee asked if both hotels would provide government rates for rooms. Steven Bardin said they've both mentioned that they can accommodate government rate needs. General discussion about dates; voted on dates – Feb 21-24 favored; voted on location – Fredonia selected. 2024 TCAFS Meeting will be held at The Fredonia Hotel on Feb 22-24, 2024.

Potential Locations for 2024 TCAFS Meeting:

Hilton Garden Inn – Temple. Venue would provide what we need to host our annual meeting. Limitation of cap of 224; potentially 240 at most. 120 hotel rooms with nearby hotels

The Fredonia Hotel – Nacogdoches

Slightly older venue but plenty of room for what we need. Capacity is much larger; banquet up to 500. Located in downtown Nacogdoches with food/drink options nearby. 110 hotel rooms with nearby hotel.

Date Selection

Hilton: Jan 24-27 or Feb 21-24

Fredonia: Jan 17-20 or Feb 21-24

Jan 17-20 – 12 votes; Jan 24-27 – 3 votes; Feb 21-24 – 13 votes

Secretary/Treasurer Update: (Stephen Curtis) Stephen completed revisions to TCAFS bylaws to split the Secretary-Treasurer position; edits have been sent to ExCom for review and will be submitted to the AFS Constitutional Consultant after review.

Financial Update: Completed 2022 taxes last week. All expenses from 2023 TCAFS Meeting have been settled. TCAFS donated \$500 to Coastal Brigades and \$500 to Bass Brigades. Money Market account balance: \$33,471.35

Pending transfer to Endowment account to support student scholarships; goal of \$13,000 which will leave ~\$20,000 for expenses prior to 2024 annual meeting

SUMMER 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

SUMMER 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

- Action Item: Tim Birdsong, Chris Mace, and Steven Bardin will review bylaw revisions

- Action Item: Stephen Curtis will send revisions to AFS Constitutional Consultant for review

- Action Item: Stephen Curtis will transfer \$13,000 to Endowment account

Committee Chair Updates:

Awards: (Beth Silvy) Plans to meet with Brittany Chesser to facilitate a smooth transition of the awards chair committee role.

Continuing Education: (Lynn Wright) Leslie Hartman with TPWD Coastal Fisheries is planning to host a student focused workshop. Dan Bennett with TPWD Inland Fisheries is planning to host an ArcGIS Pro workshop. After 2024 TCAFS Meeting, Lynn will be stepping down as committee chair; Blake Thornton has expressed interest in serving as the new chair

Editorial: (Dave Buzan and/or Preston Bean) Preston has officially stepped in as the co-chair for the Editorial Committee. Discussion about uploading presentations; moving the role from Editorial Committee to Internet & Audio/Visual Committee. Dave Buzan working on the 2023 proceedings

Endowments: (Brian Van Zee) Financial advisor moved from Edward Jones, but Brian had the opportunity to meet with the new financial advisor; TCAFS will keep doing business with Edward Jones. Three signees on the Endowment Account: Brian VanZee, Dave Terre, Stephen Curtis. One signee on the Money Market Account: Stephen Curtis.

- Action item: Add Brian VanZee and Steven Bardin to the money market account

History: (Michele Nations and Ray Mathews) Michele will be sending a Project Agreement form to Chris for his signature for TCAFS's continued participation in the Portal to Texas History, maintained by the University of North Texas. Ray has been working on a history document for the Texas Chapter for our 50th anniversary; Michele designed a logo for the document

Internet & Audio/Visual: (Ryan Seymour, Haley Kokel, and/or Michele Nations) Officer Update upon review of TCAFS Procedures: . Internet and Audio/Visual Members. Ryan Seymour, staying on working with website. Michele Nations, staying on working with listserv. Haley Kokel, reassigned from Membership to Internet, working with social media. Michele Nations will be the only officer under the membership committee

Website Updates: Ryan Seymour has webpage and save the date drafted for 2024 TXAFS Meeting, once Ex Comm is ready for it to get announced to the member. Ryan Seymour will need updates from the scholarship, awards and Editorial Committee's for dates to submit scholarship applications and abstracts. Michele Nations has completed scanning and uploading available newsletters from 1976 to 1996. Michele Nations has also created the News tab with subpages for Announcements, Members in the News, and Newsletters as mentioned in the last EXCOM Meeting. Ryan Seymour is looking to update the Student Subunit Contact information. He is requesting any website or associated social media links to help students get connected to subunits. Schools he needs information from: Tarleton Student Subunit, Texas AM Corpus Christi, University of North Texas, UTSA, Texas at Tyler.

Ryan Seymour has the Save the Date and TCAFS Meeting web page ready to go once we're ready to send out to members; Haley will have social media Save the Date ready to go as well.

SEPTEMBER 2023 COM MEETING MINUTES

- Action Item: Josh Perkin will reach out to student subunits to request they send information to Ryan Seymour.

- Action Item: Ryan Seymour will work with Beth Silvy, Jennifer Butler, and Preston Bean to update the TCAFS website as dates are finalized for scholarships, awards, and abstracts.

Issues: (Mukhtar Farooqi) No issues to report. Mukhtar inquired if any issues have been brought forward by this committee in the past.

Membership: (Michele Nations) 854 people on our listserv distribution list (Michele does not delete historic members); total of 256 active members. Working with AFS to reconcile TCAFS members between Chapter and parent society. Michele reminded everyone that membership in TCAFS is important; all officers and committee chairs must be AFS members and that all people who are nominated for an Outstanding Fisheries Worker award must be TCAFS members (except for the special recognition award)

Newsletters: (Matthew Troia) Fall newsletter planning to go out in the next month.

Nominating: (Greg Cummings) No updates but always accepting nominations.

Pond Management: (Greg Binion) Todd Sink will be assuming the role of chair for the Pond Management Committee. Thank you to Greg for serving as committee chair!

Publicity & Exhibits: (Dylan Kwak) I do not have any updates for the Publicity and Exhibits committee. With the meeting location and dates tentatively selected we will start making phone calls/emailing and utilizing anyone who is willing to help.

Scholarship Committee: (Jennifer Butler) 16 committee members. Now that we have the meeting date, Jennifer will send out draft of application for review prior to going out to universities. Due date for scholarship applications will likely be mid-November.

Student Outreach: (Joshuah Perkin) 8 committee members. Will encourage students to submit information for TCAFS website to Ryan and newsletter content to Matt.

Student Subunit Updates

- Tarleton State: (Chad Brock) No updates.

- Texas A&M College Station: (Lucas Stevens/Josh Perkin). Outreach effort to recruit new members. First meeting will be next week on Sep 19.

- Texas A&M Corpus Christi: (Kayla Dye/Ben Walther) New officers: Kayla Dye is the new president of the TAMU-CC subunit. Encouraged initiatives to bring student subunits together across the state

- Texas Tech: (Lauren Soliz/Scott Collins) Joe Martin is the new president of the TTU subunit. First meeting tonight; working on outreach and other events to bring in new membership

- University of North Texas: (Michael Curtis/David Hoeinghaus) Hosted a student mixer last Friday to attract new members. First meeting is this Wednesday. Participated in a TPWD family festival event at Ray Roberts; putting on a fish ID class for a local girl scout troop. Interested in working with other subunits to bring together guest speaker presentations via Zoom for multiple subunits at one time; created a Google spreadsheet to assist with effort.

SUMMER 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

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SEPTEMBER 2023 EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

- University of Texas San Antonio: (Regan Doss/Matt Troia) The UTSA Subunit is awaiting registration from the parent society. Matthew Troia can give a good update on our subunit! Guest speakers lined up for the semester; have been getting out in the field and teaching fish ID and sampling techniques

- University of Texas Tyler (Ryan Shartau) Josh provided update: Emailing with Kennedy Davis who is helping with subunit registration from the parent society

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

2025 Annual Meeting Update - San Antonio (Shaun Donovan)

Regarding the 2025 parent society meeting in San Antonio, I'm meeting with Shawn Johnston (Meeting Manager for the society) this Wednesday to discuss local options for the Wednesday grand social. We'd like to get that under contract ASAP since there aren't a ton of places with the capacity to host 1500-2000 people. We're having issues with price given the need for an indoor/outdoor venue considering the date for that social is August 13th.

As of right now, we have seven volunteers to help with meeting planning, we'll definitely need more folks so let me know if you'd like to help out.

Scott Collins recommended that we involve students with activities at the annual meeting to get them more involved; example being assisting with snack breaks and other tasks

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned by Chris Mace at 11:35 AM.



HISTORY COMMITTEE REQUEST

BY MICHELE NATIONS, CO-CHAIR, HISTORY COMMITTEE

My favorite saying is "Today is tomorrow's yesterday." And as I say on the History page on the [TCAFS website](#), history is alive! What is happening today is tomorrow's history. We need to capture today so that those who come after us will see our foot-steps, our photos, our research, our passion for what we believe in and fight for.



In November of 1975, a group of men and one woman joined together to form the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society on the Texas A & M College Station campus. The American Fisheries Society formally recognized the Chapter in 1976.

The 50th anniversary meeting for the Texas Chapter will be held in 2026. To document this golden anniversary, Ray Mathews is preparing the TCAFS history, which will include highlights of the many activities which have contributed to the tremendous growth of our chapter. He needs your help in gathering photos for what is happening in your lives today, photos of you and your team or class out collecting samples, electrofishing, planting to restore waterways, etc. Photos and articles would be perfect, from today or many years ago. All would be appreciated.

Send them to:

Ray Mathews, oceanrayaustin@gmail.com

Michele Nations, MichNat.TCAFS@gmail.com

I have another request. During our next annual meeting, would you please help me by taking photos throughout the different sessions and activities? I can't be everywhere, and I think everyone has a cell phone with a camera, right?

*Thanks!
Michele*

HISTORY COMMITTEE REQUEST

BEHIND THE SCENES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

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	Beth Silvy
CONTINUING EDUCATION.....	Lynn Wright
EDITORIAL.....	Dave Buzan
.....	Preston Bean
.....	Kelley Kowal
ENDOWMENTS.....	Brian VanZee
HISTORY	Michele Nations
.....	Ray Mathews
INTERNET	Ryan Seymour
Listserv	Michele Nations
Social Media	Haley Kokel
ISSUES	Mukhtar Farooqi
MEMBERSHIP.....	Michele Nations
NOMINATING	Greg Cummings
POND MANAGEMENT	Todd Sink
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS.....	Dylan Kwak
SCHOLARSHIP	Jennifer Butler
STUDENT OUTREACH.....	Josh Perkin
.....	Scott Collins
.....	Levi Sparks
.....	Margaret Stadig

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matthew Troia

TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

PURPOSE AND GOALS

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

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

A message from the newsletter team:

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

TCAFS

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

TCAFS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor—Matt Troia
troiamj@gmail.com

