

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Friday, 3 February 2017**  
**Oklahoma City Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 16-18**  
**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Dave Coughlan called the 2017 SDAFS Business Meeting to order at 1742 hrs. Current SDAFS officers were introduced: President, Dave Coughlan; President-Elect, Wes Porak; Vice President, Craig Bonds; and Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio; Past President, Dennis Riecke; Student Representative to the EXCOM, Andrew Taylor. President Coughlan welcomed attendees to Oklahoma City, marking the 65<sup>th</sup> year of the SDAFS. Steve Lochmann made a motion to approve the agenda, which was then seconded by Ken Kurzawski. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Coughlan recognized distinguished guests in attendance: Fisheries Chief of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Barry Bolton, AFS Deputy Director Dan Cassidy, AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS President-Elect and Past SDAFS President Steve McMullin, and Past SDAFS Presidents John Jackson, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, Brian Murphy, and Jeff Boxrucker.

**AFS President-Elect Steve McMullin's Remarks:** AFS President Joe Margraf sent his regrets that he was unable to make the meeting. President-Elect McMullin provided a summary of President Margraf's main initiatives which are to: 1) increase the relevance of AFS publications in the digital age and 2) improve alignment of AFS certification with employer expectations. Publication issues to be addressed include the renewal of the AFS journal publisher contract, impact factor scores for AFS journals, partnership agreements with other journals or organizations, and facilitating gray literature distribution. The AFS certification process is also being examined to determine if it needs to be changed to better meet expectations of employers. AFS Governing Board meeting will take place in Mystic, Connecticut in coordination with the AFS Northeastern Division and Southern New England Chapter meeting. There are many agenda items for the meeting, but President-Elect McMullin mentioned two in particular: the evaluation of the AFS policy group and diversity challenges. President-Elect McMullin further highlighted some of his main initiatives for his upcoming Presidential term. One of his main priorities will be to increase diversity in AFS and natural resource fields. The focus will be on developing ways to get students into and then keeping them in the "pipeline" (i.e., from the Hutton program to the college degree program to fisheries profession). Secondly, he is committed to improving communication of fisheries science to policymakers and non-technical audiences.

**AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks:** Executive Director Austen expressed his appreciation to the SDAFS and the Oklahoma Chapter. To add to what President-Elect McMullin said about diversity, he mentioned the "Diversity Joint Venture", which is a group of organizations, including AFS, whose aim is to increase diversity in the natural resource profession. From AFS, the Equal Opportunity Section is taking the lead on this and will be bringing more information to the membership in the near future. Executive Director Austen also highlighted a growing number of student subunits (now up to 82) and summarized some of the support services available to SDAFS, Chapters, and Subunits, including secure website hosting, newsletters and other publications, and financial and tax services. Upcoming AFS meetings were

announced: annual meetings in Tampa, Florida (2017); Atlantic City, New Jersey (2018); joint AFS/Wildlife Society meeting in Reno, Nevada (2019); 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting in Columbus, OH (2020); and Baltimore, Maryland (2021). The update to the Special Publication 30 (Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills) should be available by summer 2017. AFS has been seeking money from state agencies to help fund this effort and is appreciative of all the support received thus far. With all of the changes occurring in the federal government AFS is taking steps to ensure it remains relevant to policymakers and to ensure that these policymakers have the scientific information they need to make important decisions regarding the country's aquatic natural resources.

**SDAFS President Coughlan's Address:** President Coughlan reminded attendees of his 2016 challenge to read one AFS book in its entirety, such as his book of choice *Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment* (Symposium 69). Although he was unable to finish that particular book, he was able to read various others and encouraged people to take advantage of AFS book sales and dedicate time to reading those books. Another important reminder was given about safety in the field. President Coughlan urged attendees, especially newer professionals, to wear bright colored clothing and practice safety and rescue protocols in the event something happens like the fatal Duke Energy accident in 1980.

**Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio's Report:** Minutes from the 2016 Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2016 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS website. Having received no comments or revisions, John Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and Pat Mazik seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. No further questions or comments were received and the minutes stand approved as read.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted main points from the 2016 SDAFS financial statement. Income from the Wheeling, WV Meeting (\$8,912.06) was about higher than anticipated and an additional \$1,000 was given to the SDAFS as part of the Jack Dequine Estate Distribution. Also, the SDAFS was able to get \$1,431.59 in federal tax withholdings reimbursed for the Reservoir Technical Committee. These funds were collected, due to a discrepancy with the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on its investment account. Expense levels and types were similar to what was provided in the 2016 proposed budget, except for officer travel expenses which were much lower than budgeted (\$890.77 vs \$3,000) and an additional expense for software upgrade for podcast services (\$124.50). As a result, the SDAFS balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$18,921.09, which was \$8,507.79 above the projected level. An audit of the 2016 financial information was completed 14 January 2017 by the SDAFS Audit Committee. This report, which was previously approved by the EXCOM, was read aloud in its entirety by President Coughlan.

The Proposed 2017 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted some of the major changes to the upcoming budget. In exchange for a \$5,000 donation to the AFS Tampa meeting, a minimum return of \$15,000 is expected from the 10% share of meeting proceeds. Furthermore, as part of the MOU, the SDAFS webmaster, Hae Kim, will be handling all meeting website needs while the Website Chair is deployed overseas. In exchange for that service, the SDAFS will pay his registration cost for the Tampa AFS meeting (\$150). Website services will increase from \$166.13 in 2016 to an estimated \$3,000 in 2017, due to fees associated with moving the SDAFS and all technical committee websites (six in all) onto the AFS server. The SDAFS also proposed a one-time donation of \$1,000 to SEAFWA for journal

support. In anticipation of additional revenue from the AFS Tampa meeting, the SDAFS is planning to invest \$10,000 into the AFS Investment Portfolio. This would replace the \$6,000 Strategic Reserve Fund that was being housed in the SDAFS checking account. With such a low interest return on the SDAFS checking account (\$1.67 in 2016) versus the potential for a much higher return rate for the AFS Investment Portfolio, the SDAFS is hopeful this will provide more long-term financial security. President Coughlan informed attendees that this budget was discussed and subsequently approved at the 2017 EXCOM meeting by unanimous consent. He also formally acknowledged Hae Kim from the Virginia Tech Chapter for his role in helping with the transfer of the SDAFS and SDAFS technical committee websites and his webmaster services for the Tampa AFS meeting.

**Host Chapter Report:** Kurt Kuklinski with the Oklahoma Chapter welcomed attendees and special guests, including AFS President-Elect McMullin and Deputy Director Doug Austen, to Oklahoma City for the 2017 SDAFS meeting. He extended his appreciation for the hard work of all those on the planning committee and those who put on the eleven workshops, as well as this year's vendors and sponsors. Other housekeeping announcements were also made.

**President-Elect Wes Porak's Chapter Activity Report:** President-Elect Porak briefly summarized and highlighted some of the Chapters' accomplishments in 2016. In all, 18 chapters submitted reports for the annual Southern Division briefing book. Most held an annual meeting, with a conservative attendance estimate of 1,637 not including subunits. Oklahoma helped plan an atypical AFS meeting called the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference that helped other societies and entities network with fisheries scientists and learn about fisheries project within the state. The South Carolina Chapter had a plenary session on *Effectively Using Social Media in Fisheries*. Chapter meetings included some timely symposia, such as *Dam Removal* (Georgia Chapter) and *Dan River Coal Ash Spill* (North Carolina and Virginia Chapters). Workshops included *Fish Identification* (Louisiana Chapter), *Conservation Genetics* (North Carolina and Virginia Chapters), and *Acoustical Analysis of Fisheries and Habitat* (Texas Chapter). Special projects included subunits that worked on habitat improvement projects (Arkansas Chapter), working with SARP and the DNR to provide technical support to initiate riparian connectivity actions (Puerto Rico Chapter), 20<sup>th</sup> year judging and providing awards for a high school science fair (Arkansas Chapter), and a *Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Virginia* for distribution to the general public (Virginia Chapter). Well over 100 Chapter awards were presented to deserving scientists for best papers or posters, fisheries scientists of the year, conservation awards, distinguished service, student scholarships, student travel stipends to meetings, and lifetime achievement awards. President-Elect Porak recognized several of the lifetime achievement award winners that have consistently been involved with the SDAFS over their careers: Phil Bettoli (Tennessee Chapter), Hal Schramm (Mississippi Chapter), and Ronnie Gilbert (Georgia Chapter). Other lifetime achievement award winners were also Past Presidents of the SDAFS: Steve Lochmann (Arkansas Chapter), Brian Murphy (Virginia Chapter), and Larry Connor (Florida Chapter). President-Elect Porak concluded by thanking the many volunteers in Chapters throughout the Southern Division that continue to advance the science, develop professionalism, promote fisheries conservation, and educate professionals and the public.

**Vice President Craig Bonds' Technical Committee Report:** Vice President Bonds shared his review of the Striped Bass Technical Committee. During that review, issues were identified that likely influence other committees. The Striped Bass Technical Committee is looking to re-brand itself to be more inclusive of other Moronid species. Although specific to a species (or species group), this technical committee deals with issues that may overlap with those in other

committees, like the Reservoir or Aquaculture Technical Committees. As a result, it is important to encourage better communication among committees by having joint meeting sessions or identifying members to be a part of informal working groups in other committees to tackle specific issues. Vice President Bonds reiterated that anyone is welcome to sit in and participate on technical committee meetings. He also committed to meeting with fisheries chiefs in other southern states to identify issues that could be addressed by the different technical committees to help direct future efforts. Finally, he stated how the SDAFS and AFS will be working to improve communications support for technical committees in the future.

**Resolutions Committee Report:** President Coughlan recognized Gene Wilde as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Wilde read a prepared resolution in appreciation of the host Chapter. Brian Murphy made a motion to approve the host resolution and Hal Schramm seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Wilde then provided some background of the *Resolution on Standardization of Fish Data Management*. John Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the resolution and Brian Alford seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Jeff Boxrucker then made a motion to approve the resolution and Hae Kim seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Brian Murphy made a motion to forward the resolution to the AFS Resolutions Committee for consideration and John Taylor seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Ballot Committee Report:** President Coughlan recognized Past President Dennis Riecke as Chair of the Ballot Committee. In the SDAFS summer 2016 newsletter, biographies and statements for each candidate were presented. Candidates were Wes Neal and Mike Kaller for Vice President (winner Wes Neal); Kim Bonvechio and Jill Hendon for Secretary-Treasurer (winner Kim Bonvechio); and Matthew Acre, Amy Cottrell, Kasey Pregler, and Dan Walker for Student Representative to the EXCOM (winner Amy Cottrell). A total of 244 members voted for the Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer positions, and 161 students voted for the Student Representative. Past President Riecke urged people to use their voice and vote for their elected officers.

**Presentation of Awards:** President-Elect Porak announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Coughlan congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The runner-up 2016 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Patrick O'Rourke formerly of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and now with Georgia Power for his manuscript/presentation entitled *Movement and Growth of Wild Brown Trout in the Chattahoochee River below Lake Lanier, Georgia*. First place was given to Jeremy T. Risley (Ronald L. Johnson, and Jeffrey W. Quinn, co-authors) of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for their manuscript/presentation entitled *Evaluation of the Commercially Exploited Paddlefish Fishery in the Lower Mississippi River of Arkansas*. Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

There were no Distinguished Service or Outstanding Chapter Awards.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to J. R. Shute and Patrick Rakes of Conservation Fisheries, Incorporated for their role in the conservation and preservation of imperiled fishes. They have been leaders in the recovery of 60 imperiled species in the eastern

United States, leading to the delisting of several of these species and publication of guidelines for the propagation of imperiled species.

The Best Student Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University for their commitment to AFS at all levels, as well as their numerous outreach and fundraising activities, monthly meetings, and communication efforts.

The Best Poster Award from the 2016 SDAFS Meeting in Wheeling, WV went to Luv Viswa (Derek Gray, David Argent, and William Kimmel, coauthors) of California University of Pennsylvania for their work entitled *Does the Spiny Water Flea Dominate Communities in the Allegheny River?* Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2016 SDAFS Meeting was given to Edward Stowe (Douglas Peterson, coauthor) of University of Georgia for their work entitled *Using Side-Scan Sonar to Assess the Atlantic Sturgeon Spawning Run in the Altamaha River.* The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Alex Cummins (Adam Fox, Chris Kalinowsky, Richard Chandler, Matt Streich, and Douglas Peterson, coauthors) of University of Georgia for their work entitled *Seasonal Movements and Annual Mortality Rates of Tripletail (Lobotes surinamensis) in the Southeast.* Plaques and checks for \$50 (Best Poster and Second Place Best Presentation) and \$100 (First Place Best Presentation) were given to each first author prior to the meeting. Coauthors received certificates.

Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship was presented by Chair of the SDAFS Reservoir Committee Lawrence Dorsey. Chosen from a pool seven applicants, the \$500 scholarship was awarded to Dray Carl of Oklahoma State University.

Brian Alford, Chair of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg and Melissa Coughlan Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award. Chosen from a pool of six applicants, the \$500 award and complimentary one-year membership to AFS was given to Corey Dunn of University of Missouri.

Eric Ganus, Chair of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, presented Zach Moran of Arkansas Tech University with the \$300 Catfish Management Committee Scholarship award for his work with blue catfish in Arkansas.

Gene Gilliland with the SDAFS Black Bass Conservation Committee presented the Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarship for Females in Fisheries. Chosen from a pool of 29 applicants from 19 universities, Whitney (Jacobs) Della Torre formerly of University of Georgia and now an environmental law student was awarded the \$1000 scholarship.

A certificate of appreciation was given to David Wellman for his work as Student Affairs Acting Chair at the 2016 SDAFS meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Resolution of Appreciation to Host plaques and certificates were given to the Oklahoma Chapter and key members of the meeting planning committee: Kurt Kuklinski (General Meeting Chair), Jim Long (Program Chair), Jason Schooley (Symposium Chair), Steve O'Donnell (Poster Chair), Dan Shoup (Workshop Chair), Nicole Rankin (Student Affairs Chair), Bill Wentroth (Registration Chair), Ken Cunningham (Fund Raising Chair), Barry Bolton (Local Arrangements Chair), Don Groom (Technology Chair), and Nathan Copeland (Meeting Webmaster). Plaques

were presented to the Oklahoma Chapter, the general meeting chair, and the program chair. Everyone else received certificates.

Past award certificates were distributed to those in attendance.

**Old Business:** None.

**Installation of 2017 Officers:** Prior to installing new officers, President Coughlan gave a word of appreciation to two people ending their terms on the EXCOM, Past President Riecke and Student Representative to the EXCOM Andrew Taylor. New officers were Amy Cottrell, Student Representative to the EXCOM (escorted by Steve Sammons); Kim Bonvechio, Secretary-Treasurer; Wes Neal, Vice President (escorted by Brian Haley and Steve Lochmann); Craig Bonds, President-Elect (escorted by Ken Kurzawski and Dave Terre); and Wes Porak, President (escorted by Nick and Jessica Feltz).

**Newly Installed President Wes Porak's Remarks:** President Porak commended Past President Coughlan for his service to the SDAFS, then offered him a plaque of appreciation and special bottle of gin. President Porak remarked on his career with AFS since 1975 and the opportunity he had to attend many Chapter, SDAFS, and AFS meetings. At each of these meetings, he enjoys reconnecting with old colleagues like Hal Schramm, Gene Gilliland, and Jeff Boxrucker, as well as meeting some of the new energetic people who are advancing the science. President Porak reminded attendees that the SDAFS EXCOM exists to service its members, from technical committee members to chapter members to general meeting participants. He listed four main goals for his presidential term: 1) Financial stability. The more financial stability the SDAFS has and the more revenue it can bring in, the more it can help its members with special projects, member services, and other support. He highlighted the partnership between the SDAFS and Florida Chapter for the upcoming Tampa AFS meeting in August 2017. As part of this partnership, the SDAFS set up a tradeshow booth for the Tampa AFS meeting, donated \$5000 towards the meeting, recruited symposia submissions from the Southern Division, and are helping with fundraising efforts. Our SDAFS webmaster, Hae Kim, also stepped up to take over web service duties for the meeting. This should result in a significant return for the SDAFS, allowing us to be financially secure for the next 3-5 years. 2) Improve internal communication. President Porak has assigned a group of young professionals and students to look into ways we can improve that communication. 3) Promote mentorship. Mentorship is a great way to encourage young professionals and students, from giving talks, to learning from others' mistakes to networking. 4) SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico. President Porak stated his commitment to making next year's SDAFS meeting as successful as possible.

**New Business:** President Porak invited Pat Mazik to talk about the SDAFS Puerto Rico meeting. The meeting will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Juan in March 2018. The planning committee, with the help of Shawn Johnston at AFS headquarters, was able to negotiate a great hotel deal of \$195/night (during the meeting as well as two days before and two days following) with no resort fee. The hotel is providing each person with a \$25 breakfast voucher and \$10 Uber voucher, and is providing complimentary morning breaks and social for the SDAFS meeting. Meet Puerto Rico is also giving the SDAFS \$10 for each room night reserved at the Intercontinental Hotel. With those arrangements, plus reasonable airfare to Puerto and no passport needed for travel, the planning committee believes that costs can be kept within range of other SDAFS meetings. Wes Neal also provided some insight on things to do near San Juan, from deep sea and inland fishing to exploring the beach or the San Juan area to whale watching.

Meet Puerto Rico also provided the tradeshow booth items. As fundraising chair, he again requested donations for the meeting and welcomes suggestions, such as workshop ideas, to make the meeting as beneficial as possible.

Before adjourning, President Porak presented Hae Kim with a certificate of appreciation for serving as the SDAFS webmaster for 2015 and 2016 and for his work with the Tampa AFS meeting website. He also presented a certificate of appreciation to Gene Wilde for serving as Resolutions Chair and Awards Chair for 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 1924.