



Winter 2012

Southern Division News

Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society



Alabama	North Carolina
Arkansas	Oklahoma
Florida	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Kentucky	Texas
Louisiana	Virginia
Maryland	Washington, D.C.
Mississippi	West Indian Islands
	West Virginia

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Graduate Students and the Scientific Method

Steve Lochmann, SDAFS President

My daughter had the experience of putting together a science fair project this semester. Many of us have helped a junior high or high school student with a science fair project during our careers. It is gratifying to see adolescents learning the scientific method, which they ostensibly follow during their science fair project. Quick, what are the steps in the scientific method? No, don't Google "scientific method." Don't look it up on Wikipedia, either. Most of us consider ourselves scientists to one degree or another. So, we should know the steps without looking. Take out a scrap of paper from your recycle bin, and write down the steps as you recall them. Do that now, please.

OK, most of us probably wrote some form of the following four steps.

- 2) Formulate a hypothesis.
- 3) Test the hypothesis with an experiment.
- 4) Analyze and interpret experimental data to draw a conclusion regarding the hypothesis.
- 5) Construct a new hypothesis and repeat the process.

If you listed only these steps, you forgot a crucial step. The first step in the scientific method is:

- 1) Ask a question and make observations about the subject of your inquiry.

If you remembered to include this step, congratulations. This article will likely resonate with you. This article targets graduate students and academics. I am writing it, because my colleagues and I are concerned that graduate students are not getting the chance to follow the scientific method. Specifically, graduate students are not getting the chance to take the first step.



Reason with me for a moment. A professor with a research assistantship to offer, tied to extramural funding, already went through the first two and a half steps of the scientific method. A professor made observations of a subject of inquiry, formulated a hypothesis, and designed an experiment to test the hypothesis. *Continued on page 2*

Graduate Students and the Scientific Method

Continued from page 1

A funding agency liked the idea and approach, and funded the project. Now, along comes a graduate student, who gets plugged into the funded project. Often, the student's thesis objectives are the same as the project objectives. This is the most judicious use of the limited time that a student has in graduate school. However, this scenario does nothing to encourage innate curiosity in a graduate student. Development of that curiosity, and the powers of observation necessary for step 1 of the scientific method, seem to be absent from the training of many graduate students.

Do professors give graduate students the luxury of time to follow their inquisitive nature, and make their own observations before formulating a hypothesis? My academic program is not designed to do so. The day a student enters our program the clock starts ticking. In 200 days, a graduate student must have defended a thesis proposal, or they lose their assistantship. The path of least resistance is to review the literature from the funded project, and adopt the project's hypothesis and experimental design as the student's thesis research. Does this sound familiar? What's wrong with this scenario? Many graduate students are in the process of learning to be managers, not scientists. Why is it important that graduate students learn all the steps of the scientific method?

The reasons that graduate students, even those destined to be fishery managers, should learn the scientific method are three-fold. First, while students are in graduate school, they are doing science. They are scientists! Some scientists make great discoveries by accident. However, most

scientists make progress, and contribute to a knowledge base, because of the rigorous adherence to the scientific method. Second, when former graduate students become fishery managers, they must be able to evaluate the scientific literature. Using the lens of the scientific method, managers assess the quality of science in journal articles, in order to undertake science-based management. Third, many fisheries professionals undertake both science and management. Look at any of the AFS journals and examine the affiliations of the authors. Professors and graduate students don't have a monopoly on publishing science.

What happens when graduate students don't follow all the steps of the scientific method? They don't necessarily understand the big picture. I have seen students that defended a thesis proposal, but could not begin to answer the question, "Why is this important to a stakeholder?" Students who miss the first step of the scientific method often do not get the chance to think deeply and critically about their research. They attempt all their critical thinking as they frantically try to finish and defend their thesis. Scientists need the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills, hone their powers of observation, and learn to formulate testable hypotheses. Graduate school is where this is supposed to happen. To the academics who read this article, I implore you to make these opportunities available to students. To students who read this article, I implore you to take advantage of these opportunities, if they are offered. To everyone who reads this article, be curious about the world around you, and take time to think about what you see.

Can't Attend SDAFS Meetings?

Podcasts of presentations from past meeting are available on the SDAFS website. Podcasts from the 2010 meeting in Asheville, North Carolina meeting can be found at http://129.15.97.19/2010_podcasts/ and from the 2011 meeting in Tampa, Florida at <http://129.15.97.19/sdafs2011/>.

In addition, podcasts from the upcoming 2012 meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi will be available soon after the meeting, so stay tuned!



Come experience the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast!

20TH
AFS SOUTHERN DIVISION
SPRING MEETING
January 26 - 29, 2012



Hosted by the Mississippi Chapter
of the American Fisheries Society

"Fisheries in Recovery?"

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to join us in Biloxi, Mississippi for the 2012 Southern Division Spring Meeting, to be held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa on Biloxi's Back Bay.

Meeting details (including accommodations, registration and call for papers) can be found at: www.sdafs.org/meetings/2012/default.htm

MEETING FEATURES

- Technical Committee Meetings
- Workshops
- Symposia
- Contributed Oral and Poster Presentations
- Social Events





2012 SOUTHERN DIVISION SPRING MEETING



Hosted by the Mississippi Chapter AFS
26-29 January 2012; Biloxi, Mississippi
IP Casino Resort and Spa on Back Bay Biloxi –
<http://www.ipbiloxi.com/STAY/tabid/56/Default.aspx>

Please join us for the 20th annual Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society to be held January, 2012 in Biloxi, Mississippi! This meeting promises to once again be an intriguing forum directed towards the exchange of novel ideas, presentation of current research, participation in cutting edge technology workshops, and the discussion of Division business and professional interests.

The Spring Meeting will be held at the IP Casino Resort and Spa on Back Bay Biloxi in coastal Biloxi, Mississippi. Details regarding accommodations, reservations, and registration procedures and meeting registration is available at the Division's meeting website (<http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2012/default.htm>). Updates will be made to this webpage as they become available. The general schedule for the Spring Meeting will be as follows: Thursday - Technical Committee Meetings; Friday – EXCOM Meeting, Continuing Education Workshops, Poster Presentations; Saturday and Sunday morning - Technical Sessions and Symposia.



Our meeting theme is 'Fisheries in Recovery?' We are excited and honored to have three speakers who will provide keynote talks to set the stage for our theme during the opening session. The speakers and their respective talk titles are:

Dr. Martin O'Connell, University of New Orleans, speaking on 'Disasters, resilience, and long-term change: a decade of assessing nekton community dynamics in the Pontchartrain Estuary,'

Dr. Stephania Bolden, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Endangered Species Branch, speaking on "Crossing the saltwater interface: management of sturgeons in the southeast", and

Mr. Donny Lowery, Tennessee Valley Authority, speaking on "Kingston coal ash spill effects on Emory River and Watts Bar Reservoir fishery".

WORKSHOPS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

A series of workshops and technical committees have been organized. The workshops are Vemco Acoustics, Hummingbird Habitat Mapping, Pod Casts, Catfish, Alligator Gar, Leadership at all Levels, and Cover Letters and Resumes for Professionals. The technical committees are Warmwater Streams, Alligator Gar, Catfish, Small Impoundments, Aquaculture, Striped Bass, and SDAFS Leadership Training. Information on workshops and technical committees can be obtained from Tom Holman (tomh@mdwfp.state.ms.us).

2012 Tidewater Chapter Annual Meeting Plans Underway



The 2012 American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting will be held along the historic Beaufort, N.C., waterfront.

The upcoming American Fisheries Society Tidewater Chapter annual meeting will be held Mar. 8 – 10, 2012 in historic downtown Beaufort, N.C. Our host, Pres-Elect Jacob Boyd, and his planning committee already have been hard at work reserving venues offering spectacular views of the Newport River for what promises to be an unforgettable meeting!

The Thursday night welcoming poster social will be held at the Beaufort Art Center in the heart of downtown. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and read about some of the new and exciting fisheries research being conducted by Chapter members. Friday and Saturday presentations will be held at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research on Pivers Island.

After a day of talks on Friday, the awards banquet will be held at the N.C. Maritime Museum, which offers a new Blackbeard exhibit with artifacts from his flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*.

New this year, the Chapter will host a Continuing Education course the Thursday afternoon before the meeting start. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Senior Stock Assessment Scientist, Laura Lee, will explain Growth Modeling:

- Linear and nonlinear models of length-weight and age-length
- Evaluating model assumptions and assessing fit
- Determining the best model for data
- Comparing parameter estimates fit to different data sets

When registering, please indicate whether you would like to attend the course which is free of charge. Further details on this, as well as the meeting generally, will be posted on the Chapter Website (www.sdafs.org/tidewater) and circulated via the Tidewater Chapter Listserv.

Registration for the Chapter annual meeting will go from Dec. 1, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012. A block of rooms are reserved at the Inlet Inn on the waterfront. This hotel boasts not only spectacular river views, but also, is within walking distance for both socials. Reservations can be made by visiting: www.inlet-inn.com. Or, phone and ask for the "TIDEWATER AFS" rate (\$90). The room block expires Jan. 31, 2012.

We still are seeking various types of sponsorship, as well as items for a benefit raffle. For more information on this, e-mail Jacob Boyd at: Jacob.Boyd@ncdenr.gov. See you there!



Jacob Boyd, Tidewater Chapter president-elect, studied maturity and fecundity of striped bass in NC for his Master's.

East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop

“Conservation and Management of East Coast Trout Resources in an Increasingly Crowded World”

June 11 - 13, 2012

Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD

The Southern Division AFS Trout Committee announces the 5th East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop June 11 - 13, 2012, at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland. This workshop is unique in providing a forum for both managers and trout culturists to share information, techniques and timely topics of concerns.

Coldwater conservation, management and trout production efforts are increasingly being impacted by the effects of human activities on water quality and habitat conditions, including the added challenges posed by invasive exotic organisms. This Fifth conference encourages presentations addressing human impacts on water quality and habitat, stream restoration projects, reestablishment of native brook trout populations, impacts and challenges of trout management with increasing oil and gas extraction activities, and challenges of trout propagation related to dealing with invasives, biosecurity, and native trout propagation. Presentations on all other topics associated with trout management and culture are also welcomed and will be considered for inclusion in the workshop program.

Fisheries managers, culturists, researchers, administrators, and sportsmen are encouraged to attend this workshop and to submit an abstract(s) for review and inclusion in the conference program. Presentations may include reviews of pertinent works and recently completed studies or preliminary results that are innovative solutions to the challenges we face in managing our coldwater resources. Those wishing to present at this workshop must send an abstract to Alan Heft (aheft@dnr.state.md.us) for management topics or George Duckwall (george.duckwall@dgif.virginia.gov) for culture topics by March 9, 2012. Abstracts or extended abstracts should be in MICROSOFT WORD and follow the instructions for authors in the Manuscript Format section for the North American Journal of Fisheries Management (<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=ujfm20&page=instructions>). Abstracts can be up to four, double spaced pages with additional tables and figures. All accepted abstracts will be published in the meeting proceedings, and should include a title, name and address of each author, and the telephone number and email address of the presenter.



Meeting registration (\$50), lodging (FSU air conditioned dormitory rooms with linens, single (\$38/night) or double (\$22/night), and meal package (FSU dining hall, \$35.00 per day, breakfast, lunch, and dinner) information will be available on the Southern Division AFS Trout Committee's website <http://www.sdafs.org/trout>, after January 23, 2012. The SDAFS annual Trout Committee meeting (June 11, 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) and the EBTJV Steering Committee annual meeting (June 13 - 14, 2012) will be held in conjunction with this meeting also. Local lodging and restaurant information is available at <http://www.frostburg.edu/admin/ses/dininglodging.html>.

For additional meeting information contact Steve Moore (Steve_E_Moore@nps.gov) or Alan Heft (aheft@dnr.state.md.us).

Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation

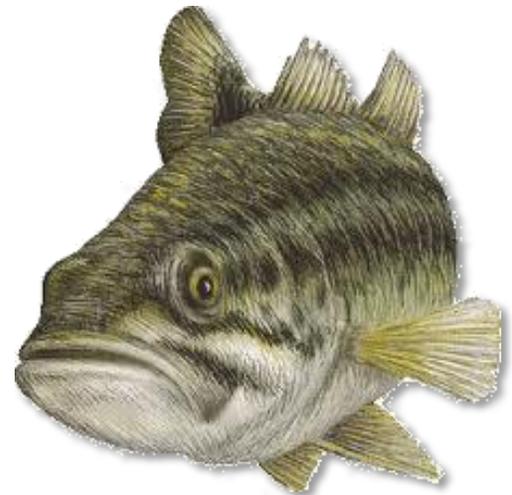
A special symposium is being organized to be held in conjunction with the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN in February 2013. This symposium will emphasize the conservation need and diversity of black basses (genus *Micropterus*) in their native habitats. Of the nine described species or subspecies of black bass in North America, three were described in the past 12 years and more possibly exist as undescribed species (e.g., Bartram's bass and Cuatro Ciénegas bass). Many black bass populations have conservation issues related to genetic integrity and habitat degradation. Building on previous work, this symposium will highlight the conservation of native black basses in an AFS publication that contains accounts related to:

Biology/ecology/life history requirements
Habitat management and restoration
Conservation genetics
Fish populations, fisheries, and human dimensions

The symposium organizers will target scientists for invited submissions to the symposium, but contributed abstracts that fit the theme of the symposium are encouraged and will also be considered for the symposium and book. If you are conducting research on a black bass species or unique population that can contribute to the understanding or conservation of black basses, feel free to contact the steering committee at BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com for possible inclusion in the symposium. Authors of papers who want to be included in the publication must have their manuscript submitted by the date of the meeting.

Abstracts (in plain text or MS-Word) are to be submitted to BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com by 10/31/2012 and must include:

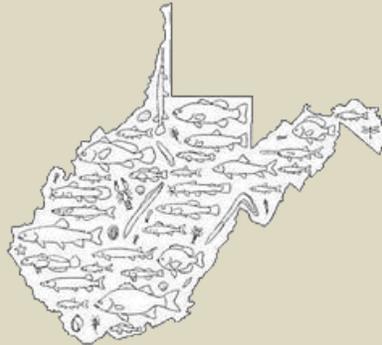
1. Type of presentation preferred (oral or poster)
2. To be considered for publication? (yes or no)
3. Presentation topic (select from below)
Biology/ecology/life history requirements
Habitat management and restoration
Conservation genetics
Fish populations, fisheries, and human dimensions
4. Title, in upper/lower case format
5. Author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s) as they should appear
6. Name of presenter, mailing address, phone, and email
7. Text of abstract in 300 words or less.



Mark Your Calendars!

The SDAFS Student Colloquium (usually held in November) will be held April 15-17, 2012 in conjunction with the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency (NEAFWA) meeting in Charleston, WV.

The Colloquium will be hosted by the West Virginia University student AFS chapter. Details can be found at <http://www.neafwa.org/>.



Meeting Minutes

*Spring EXCOM Meeting
January 14, 2011
Tampa, Florida*

President Janssen called the EXCOM to order at 10:10. President Janssen called roll and the following proxies were identified: Arkansas (Lochmann), Louisiana (Kaintz), Oklahoma (Gilliland), South Carolina (Osier), Texas (Bonds), Tidewater (Machut), and Aquaculture Technical (Kittel). Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan announced that there was a quorum. SDAFS Past Presidents Boxrucker, Connor, Filipek, and Heitman were recognized.

President Janssen then discussed his activities as SDAFS President. Fred attended many AFS Governing Board Meetings where he was proud to serve as the SD's representative. The Alligator Gar Technical Committee was elevated to the status of a full technical committee and its procedures were approved by EXCOM. An ad hoc Science and Data Committee that was spawned at the Asheville Meeting did not bear fruit in 2010 but Fred will continue to pursue this in the future. Fred made a presentation on the History of Fisheries

Management at the Student Symposium held at the Pittsburgh AFS Meeting and noted that it was enjoyed by more professionals than students. In an effort to communicate with the membership and understand their views, Fred has made numerous blog posts (300) and tweets (150) and will make the division's copy of Survey Monkey available to the chapters and technical committees. The Southern Division was able to send Jessica Thompson to the national meeting as a Governing Board mentee.

SDAFS Officer Reports were then requested. The President-elect, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President reports stood as written. Vice-President Lochmann additionally noted that he attended the Alligator Gar Technical Committee Meeting in Thibodaux and that their procedures were approved by EXCOM. He also led a discussion about a possible Puerto Rico or Caribbean AFS Chapter.

Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan's reports were handled individually. Minutes from the Spring 2010 EXCOM Meeting in Asheville, NC, were published in the June 2010 SDAFS Newsletter. One comment was received and rectified. An updated copy of the EXCOM minutes that duly noted the generous donations of the MS AFS and MS Wildlife, Fisheries,

& Parks now appears in the Briefing Book. Hearing no additional questions or revisions, the 2010 EXCOM minutes were then approved.

The 2010 SDAFS budget was discussed. The Division started 2010 with \$7,138 and an additional \$4,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Spring Meeting in Asheville (\$9,498), Mississippi AFS and WF&P donations (\$2,125), and the AFS dues rebate (\$7,934). Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and briefly discussed. Donations to other AFS entities totaled \$2,000 and were made to Catfish 2010, the AFS-EOS, SDAFS Membership Challenge, Mexico AFS Chapter, and MSU (AFS-TWS Symposium). The Student Affairs Committee was provided \$5,500 for student lodging at SDAFS and SEAFWA Meetings. Two thousand dollars were added to the SD Strategic Reserve Fund (for an EOY total of \$6,000) and the SD ended the year with \$10,352 in cash. An audit of the 2010 financial information was not completed in time for this meeting, but will be done. A motion to pass the 2010 Budget was made by Boxrucker and seconded by Lochmann. The budget was unanimously approved.

The Proposed 2011 SDAFS Budget was discussed. The financial concerns prior to 2010 have diminished slightly as we start the year in good shape and expect a modest return from the Tampa Meeting. Projected income in 2011 is \$29,553 and expenses are projected at \$24,780 (and include the maintenance of \$6,000 in our reserve expenditure fund) for an end of year balance of \$4,773. After no further discussion, a motion was entertained to pass the 2011 Proposed Budget (made by Lochmann, seconded by Oliver). The proposed 2011 budget was accepted by vote.

A resolution of thanks to the Florida Chapter for hosting the SDAFS Spring Meeting was approved.

Chapter Reports

- Arkansas** – Report stands as written. They also had joint meeting with the Oklahoma Chapter and hosted the Student Colloquium.
- Auburn University** - No report; not represented.
- Florida** - Not present; report stands as written.
- Georgia** - Not present; report stands as written.

- University of Georgia Student Subunit** - Not present; report stands as written.
- Kentucky** - Not present; report stands as written.
- Louisiana** – No report but one will be submitted.
- Mississippi** - Report stands as written. They will host the 2012 SDAFS Spring Meeting. There are new student subunits at MSU and Southern Miss.
- North Carolina** - Not present; report stands as written.
- NCSU Student Subunit** - Not present; report stands as written.
- Oklahoma** - Report stands as written.
- South Carolina** - Report stands as written. They had a successful annual meeting at Fort Johnson in 2010 and also conducted a workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Freshwater Mussels.
- Tennessee** – Not present; report stands as written.
- Texas** - Report stands as written.
- Tidewater – present but no report submitted,**
- E. Carolina Student Subunit** - No report; not represented.
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore Student Subunit** - No report; not represented.
- Virginia** - Not present; report stands as written.
- Virginia Tech** – Not present; report stands as written.
- West Virginia** - Not present; report stands as written.

Committee Reports

- Audit Committee** - The report was incomplete due to the early timing of this meeting relative to the close of 2010. The audit report will be submitted when all financial information is in hand and thoroughly reviewed.
- Awards Committee** - Report stands as written. Awards will be distributed at the Annual Business Meeting later this afternoon.
- Ballot Committee** – Report stands as written.
- Membership Committee** - Report stands as written.
- Nominating Committee** - Report stands as written.
- Resolutions Committee** - Report stands as written.
- Student Affairs Committee** – Report stands as written. Thirty students were provided rooms at the 2010 Asheville Meeting and 38 were provided rooms in Tampa. A new symposium has been instituted at the Spring Meeting to fairly and uniformly judge student presentations - 42 submitted abstracts were

narrowed down to 10 presenters. The winning students will be recognized later today at the Annual Business Meeting.

Technical Committees - Reports for the Alligator Gar, Aquaculture, Catfish Management, Reservoir, Small Impoundments, Striped Bass, Trout, and Warmwater Streams committees stood as written in the Briefing Book. The Aquaculture Committee (Kittel) noted that Homeland Security is concerned about large quantities of hatchery chemicals. The Small Impoundments Committee (Patrick) noted that their textbook is close to completion. The Striped Bass Committee has travel concerns and inquired about the availability of webcasting software other than Skype.

Newsletter Editor - No report; not represented.

SEAFWA Proceedings, Fisheries Editor – No report.

SEAFWA Directors Liaison – No report.

Webmaster Report – No report.

Unfinished Business

Ad hoc Podcasting Committee - Greg Summers noted that 104 presentations were recorded as podcasts at the 2010 Asheville Meeting. He has coordinated with the Florida Chapter and they are prepared to record presentations here in Tampa. President Janssen noted that SD podcasting is the envy of everyone at the AFS Governing Board Meetings.

Ad hoc Archiving Committee – Greg Summers (for Boxrucker and Van Den Avyle) noted that they have approximately 5,000 documents to image. This could be somewhat expensive and the cheapest cost Greg has found (~ \$500) might be from the OK Department of Corrections. Greg noted that this might be worth considering for inclusion in the 2012 budget and some discussion followed.

New Business

President Janssen then introduced AFS President Wayne Hubert. Wayne invited everyone to please introduce themselves to him during the meeting. He also briefly discussed AFS concerns which include archiving, virtual meeting attendance, and monthly management committee calls. Wayne fondly recalled how his first AFS meeting made him a member for life.

Other Business

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Lochmann) and seconded (Gilliland) and, hearing unanimous support, President Janssen adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 12:04.

Spring Business Meeting

January 14, 2011

Tampa, Florida

The 2011 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1710 hrs by President Fred Janssen. It was determined that there was a quorum present. President Janssen recognized the current SDAFS officers; Steve Lochmann, President-Elect; Brian Murphy, Vice President; Cecil Jennings, Past President; and Dave Coughlan, Secretary-Treasurer. President Janssen then introduced SDAFS Past Presidents: Jeff Boxrucker, Larry Connor, John F. Dequine, Steve Filipek, Fred Heitman, Steve McMullin, Michael J. Van Den Avyle. President Janssen introduced AFS President Wayne Hubert.

AFS President Hubert's Remarks

Wayne noted the SDAFS meeting in 1972 (Hot Springs, AR) was his first AFS meeting and at that point he became a Lifetime Member of the AFS. He reminded everybody of the AFS mission of Conservations, Science and Professional Development and noted that the majority of work accomplished by the AFS is volunteer effort. During his tenure he has been working on the revised AFS Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2015, which is available on the AFS website. Three major goals are leadership, education, and value. The AFS meeting will be held in Seattle, WA and focused on New Frontiers in Fisheries Management. A new contract has been awarded to Taylor and Francis for the AFS journals which will feature a new format and look, but include the same content and review process. The contract will also include publishing 12 to 15 books per year. AFS membership is growing with the inclusion of students and young professionals. The Coalition of Natural Resource Societies is working with universities to maintain fisheries programs and education. The AFS

leadership is also looking into improving the Certification Program and Continuing Education Program.

President Janssen's Address

Fred thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. His goals as president were to continue with President Jennings initiative to get the website up to speed. It had been the same for 15 years. Fred began posting news on a Blog linked to a Twitter account. The SDAFS acquired a license for Survey Monkey for conducting officer elections online. This capability will also be available to Southern Division Chapters and Units. Other accomplishments include the approval of the Ad Hoc Alligator Gar Committee as a full Technical Committee. He tried to move develop a Science and Data Ad Hoc Committee, which he will continue to work on this year as Past President. Fred also worked to support the membership impacted by the floods in Tennessee and the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He worked with Past President Jackson on response and Task Force at the AFS meeting in Pittsburg. Finally, President Janssen recognized Fred Harris who was awarded the Meritorious Service award at the AFS meeting in Pittsburg.

Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan's Report

Minutes from the 2010 Asheville Business Meeting were published in the August 2010 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book. Hearing no call for revision, President Janssen asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made (Connor) and seconded (Heitman) and the 2010 Business Meeting minutes were approved.

President-Elect Lochmann's Chapter Activity Report

Reports from the various state chapters and their student subunits, as compiled in the EXCOM Briefing Book, were summarized.

Vice President Murphy's Technical Committee Report

The SDAFS Technical Committees had an active 2010. The Catfish Management Committee, in combination with the North Central Division had a

successful Second International Catfish Symposium June in St. Louis with more than 100 presentations. The Striped Bass committee is working on the publication of the 2009 Striped Bass Symposium. The Small Impoundment Committee is working on publication of a book on small impoundment management. The Warmwater Streams Committee published a video about stream conservation aimed at middle and high school classes and the general public. The Trout Committee supported the publication of a technical article in The North American Journal of Fisheries Management on multi-pass depletion sampling.

Ballot Committee Report

President Janssen summarized the report from the Ballot Committee. Survey Monkey was used for the officer election for the first time in 2010 and was very successful with 423 votes cast, exceeded that in 2009, 2008 and 2007.

Presentation of Awards

President-Elect Lochmann announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Janssen congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The SDAFS Outstanding Achievement Award went to Dr. Hal Schramm of the Mississippi Coop Unit at Mississippi State University for his long career of substantial and meaningful contributions to fisheries management and ecology, education, and public outreach. Wes Neal accepted the award in Hal's absence.

The 2009 SEAFWA Jack Dequine Best Paper Award went to Eric Nagid (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission) and Will Strong, Travis Tuten, and Richard Kiltie. The second place award went to Michael Benarski (University of Georgia) and Jeffrey Hendricks, David Higginbotham, and Douglas Peterson. Jack Dequine presented the award.

The Outstanding Student Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University under Advisor, Jim Rice. The best student paper award from the 2010 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Asheville went to Matthew Wegener of Mississippi State University and, tied for second place, were Eric Merriam of West Virginia University and Daniel Weaver of North Carolina

State University. There was a tie for best student poster from the 2010 SDAFS Spring Meeting, with the awards going to Tyler Stubbs of Mississippi State University and Paul Tobler of the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

There was no SDAFS Membership Challenge winner selected in 2010; the North Carolina Chapter will retain the plaque until next year's meeting.

The Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award was presented by Eric Cummins of the Warmwater Streams Committee to Elissa Buttermore (North Carolina State University).

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Jonah Dagele (Mississippi State Univ.) and Ryan Lothrop (Auburn University).

Resolution of Appreciation and Thanks

President Janssen presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the Florida Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Eric Nagid, General Meeting Chair; Dave Kerstetter, Program Chair; Kerry Flaherty, Local Arrangements Chair; and Wes Porak, Fund Raising Chair, for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2011 Spring Meeting.

Old Business

Installation of 2011 Officers

Newly installed officers include Elizabeth Osier Moats who will replace David Coughlan as

Secretary-Treasurer; Mike Allen as Vice President; Brian Murphy as President-Elect; and Steve Lochmann as President. All were escorted to the head of the room. Fred Janssen presented the Presidential gavel to Steve Lochmann.

Newly Installed President Lochmann's Remarks

Steve thanked Fred Janssen for his guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past President's plaque and a case of beer. President Lochmann then presented outgoing Secretary-Treasurer Coughlan with a plaque for his two terms of service. As President, Steve hopes to focus on two things that make the AFS strong, which are science and management. Speaking to students, he encourages them to focus on the scientific method and experimental design. Faculty members need to work with students to produce sound science. He reminds management biologists to use science in management and conservation decisions. Strength lies in the knowledge base we create. Steve encouraged everyone to get involved in Chapter committees and the many technical and standing committees available through the SDAFS.

New Business

A motion to adjourn was made (Gilland) and seconded (Taylor) and the meeting concluded at 1830 hrs.

Committee Reports

Alligator Gar Technical Committee

The committee, comprised of numerous state and federal agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and other partners, held a joint meeting with the International Network for Lepisosteid Research and Management at Nicholls State University (NSU) in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Member countries represented at the meeting included Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States.

The Alligator Gar Technical Committee held a meeting in Dyersburg, Tennessee on May 25-26 2011. The meeting was held in Dyersburg to provide a more centralized area for the committee members

to convene and provided an opportunity for our partners in other states (i.e. non-SDAFS member states) to participate and provide updates on their alligator gar conservation and restoration efforts. In addition to the meeting, efforts were planned to assist Tennessee in sampling for stocked alligator gar. However, due to flood conditions, this sampling activity was canceled.

The Committee will work cooperatively with the Lepisosteid Research and Management Committee, the International Network for Lepisosteid Research and Management and all Agencies in developing strategic approaches to managing alligator gar populations throughout their existing native ranges

by implementing actions addressed in the goals of the committee.

The Alligator Gar Technical Committee is planning to host a workshop at the 2012 SDAFS Annual Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. This workshop will provide researchers an update on some of the most recent technological advancements available for fisheries research and will afford an opportunity for attendees to interact with representatives promoting their respective technology.

The Alligator Gar Committee has developed an information website that contains life history information of alligator gar as well as population data, conservation status and a state-by-state listing for this species. Lindsey Lewis (FWS) serves as the information officer and is responsible for maintaining the website. This website can be found on the SDAFS website under the Alligator Gar Technical Committee. The website is available to all interested parties.

Alligator Gar Technical Committee members also play a vital role in the work being carried out by the Lepisosteid Research and Management Committee. This committee carries out projects related to the overall management of all gar species. Committee members participate as members of the International Network for Lepisosteid Research and Management.

Aquaculture Technical Committee

Members of the committee met at the SDAFS meeting held in Tampa, FL. A few members that could not attend the Tampa meeting met at the Midcontinent Warmwater Fish Culture Workshop held in Ashland, NE in February. At both meetings, the membership list was updated, annual production reports were reviewed, and construction and renovation projects were discussed. Discussions were held regarding hatchery feed contracts, approved chemicals and medications for aquaculture, and possible fish trades. New business included a discussion on the recent Department of Homeland Security rules governing chemical use and storage. Relevant chemicals were identified and procedures for reporting were presented. The need for remote connection to committee meetings was discussed as a way to increase meeting participation with travel budgets being reduced. Nominations for

committee chair were solicited and David Deaton was unanimously elected to serve for the next two years.

Catfish Management Technical Committee

The Catfish Management Technical Committee (CMTC) has been working on creating a database of all state regulations for recreational and commercial catfish fisheries. This database will be posted on the CMTC website for reference by state agency personnel. The CMTC continues to collaborate with the North Central Division AFS Ictalurid Technical Committee by sending representatives to each committee meeting.

The Proceedings of the 2nd International Catfish Symposium (AFS Symposium 77), "Conservation, Ecology, and Management of Catfish" was published in 2011, was distributed to those who attended the symposium, and is now available for sale from the AFS bookstore.

The Catfish Management Technical Committee is conducting a continuing education workshop on catfish sampling methods at the SDAFS Annual Meeting in 2012. Planning for this workshop has been ongoing throughout 2011. Our committee also maintains a website (www.sdafs.org/catfish) and Discussion Forum (www.sdafs.org/catfish/phpbb).

Reservoir Technical Committee

The Reservoir Committee continues to work closely with the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership and the Southeastern Aquatic Resources partnership to assist with project selection criteria and identification of habitat issues in reservoirs. Currently, the Reservoir Committee of the SDAFS is the only organized group of reservoir fisheries managers in the U.S., and as such, it is proving to be more and more indispensable to these partnerships as a ready source of technical and biological expertise.

The Reservoir Committee met for the annual Summer Meeting in Warm Springs, GA, July 26-27, 2011. This meeting was a two-day Reservoir Habitat Mapping Workshop, conducted by Thom Litts, GA DNR, and Adam Kaeser, USFWS. The workshop included instruction on equipment setup in the boat,

an on lake demonstration of how the mapping is conducted on the water, and a half-day inside portion, where Thom and Adam instructed attendees on the GIS process of taking the raw data from the field and turning it into usable data for estimation of habitat composition in reservoirs.

Kurt Kuklinski (OK) will be taking over as chair of the Reservoir Committee at the 2012 SDAFS meeting in Biloxi. He replaces Steve Sammons (AL), who has served as chair for the previous four years. Kurt already works closely with Jeff Boxrucker, RFHP Coordinator, and thus will enable the Committee to continue and increase its involvement with these issues, in accordance to the desires of the Fish Chiefs across the southeast. The Reservoir Committee is also expected to appoint a new Secretary-Treasurer and a webmaster at the 2012 SDAFS meeting.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee

The Small Impoundment Technical Committee met in Tampa, Florida, in conjunction with the 2011 Southern Division Mid-Year Meeting. The following three objectives were developed by the SIC Excom for 2011 and 2012: (1) To provide a comprehensive educational text/reference book on small impoundment management in North America (2) To raise partial publishing costs for objective 1 so SIC can receive royalties from book sales to support other SIC projects (3) To meet annually to provide state updates and to discuss potential projects and collaborations

The Committee maintains a summary of small impoundment management activities by state on our website at: <http://www.sdaf.org/sic/>

Per objective 1 above, the Small Impoundment Technical Committee has undertaken a project to create an inclusive educational and reference textbook titled "Small Impoundment Management in North America." The book is nearing completion, with an expected publication date of spring 2012.

Per objective 2 above, the Small Impoundment Technical Committee has been raising monies to help support the publication of "Small Impoundment Management in North America." This will entitle the Committee to a percentage of

royalties from the sale of the book, which can then be used to build funds for other projects. Projects may include membership opportunities and student scholarships.

Striped Bass Technical Committee

The major ongoing effort of the Committee is to produce a reference book entitled "Biology and Management of Inland Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass." The book's contents were first reported at a Special Symposium at the 2009 Annual meeting of AFS. AFS has agreed to publish the proceedings. The expected completion of the book is early 2012 and it will promote science-based fishery conservation.

In 2011, the Committee brought in several additional members from the member states to increase the diversity of interests that are represented on the Committee. The Committee discussed establishing a web-based forum on the website to improve communications; this goal was not completed. An on-line election of new officers that will take office on April 1, 2012 was held. Tim Churchill (TN) was elected Chairman and John Taylor (TX) will serve another term as Secretary Treasurer.

Trout Technical Committee

Committee members recently published an evaluation entitled "Three-Pass Depletion Sampling Accuracy of Two Electric Fields for Estimating Trout Abundance in a Low-Conductivity Stream with Limited Habitat Complexity" in North American Journal of Fisheries Management (Habera et al. 2010). In 2011, members were surveyed regarding objectives and methods of their trout sampling protocols. This survey was an activity to continue committee efforts regarding refinement of trout sampling techniques. Discussion of survey results will occur at the 2012 committee meeting.

Several members of the committee remain actively involved in the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV). The EBTJV is a Fish Habitat Partnership that works to conserve eastern brook trout and their habitats (<http://www.easternbrooktrout.org/>). An EBTJV working meeting was held in October 2010 at Mountain Lake, Virginia. Discussion of recent activities and a review of regional and state-level conservation strategies occurred at this meeting.

The committee continues to provide support to Jack Van Deventer for ongoing development of "Microfish", a software package designed to assist fisheries managers with analysis of depletion data. Support includes technical reviews of software while in development, as well as providing stipends to allow Van Deventer to present software updates at appropriate committee meetings. Comments during the 2011 trout committee meeting indicate new software (Version 4) will be available in 2012.

The 2011 trout committee annual meeting was held in New Germany State Park, Maryland, on 5-6 April 2011. The 2012 meeting will be held on 11 June 2012 in conjunction with the 5th East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop in Frostburg, Maryland.

On 11-13 June 2012, the committee will host the 5th East Coast Trout Management and Culture Workshop (Conservation and Management of East Coast Trout Resources in an Increasingly Crowded World) at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland.

Committee members continue to update the trout committee's website (<http://www.sdafs.org/trout>) and proceedings to support the administrative record of committee actions and activities.

Warmwater Streams Technical Committee

Committee meeting was held in conjunction with SDAFS meeting in Tampa, Florida in January 2011. The committee did not have a summer meeting in 2011 due to travel restrictions of its members.

Committee maintains posting of annual round table discussions of SE stream and river issues on our website

<http://www.sdafs.org/wwstreams/discuss/round.htm>. The round table discussions from the 2011 SDAFS meeting will be posted prior to the 2012 SDAFS meeting.

Availability of the committee video entitled "Warmwater Streams: A Resource Worth Protecting" has been maintained in its entirety on the SDAFS website, WWSC website, Youtube and other venues to promote stream conservation in the public domain. The Warmwater Streams Committee webpage maintains current and historical

information concerning warmwater fisheries and ecosystems. The webpage can be found at: <http://www.sdafs.org/wwstreams/wwsc1.htm>

Resolutions Committee

As required by the SDAFS Bylaws, this resolution was printed the summer 2011 issue of the SDAFS Newsletter. It was also posted on the SDAFS website with a call for comments. The comment period ended on Sept. 1, 2011 and no comments were received.

State aquatic invasive species programs are critical for the prevention, detection, monitoring, control and management of aquatic invasive species. Federal funding for these state programs has been the same at \$1,075,000 dollars since 2004 when each of the 16 approved state and interstate plans received \$67,187 dollars. In 2011, there were 39 state and interstate plans that each received federal funding of \$27,564 dollars. This represents a 41% decrease in funding in a 7-year period. The current level of federal funding for state and federal plans is inadequate to respond effectively to the negative impacts that aquatic invasive species have on native species.

Federal funding for the six regional plans have remained unchanged since implementing legislation was enacted in 1994. Funding of \$50,000 per year is provided to each panel. This funding level is insufficient for effective panel operations. It has been estimated that adequate funding would be \$1,000,000 per panel annually

SDAFS Representative to SEAFWA

At the Annual meeting presented two student workshops and SDAFS hosted the evening student social. Worked with MINRIC and the Student Committee at SEAFWA to host and present student workshops on how to get hired by State and Federal Agencies and Resumes and Cover letters.

I will be working with the Arkansas SEAFWA hosts on the Student/Mentor lunch and student workshop/job fair. Also the SDAFS representative to

the SEAFWA publication committee. SEAFWA is looking to into having submissions and publications be totally online.

Student Affairs Committee

The student colloquium will be held in conjunction with the annual NEAFWA (Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) meeting in Charleston, WV on April 15-17, 2012. The Student Affairs Committee provided \$1,000.00 in monetary support for the meeting.

The student presentation symposium and poster session was conducted at the 2011 SDAFS Mid-Year Meeting in Tampa Florida. Free rooms were provided for 30 students at the SDAFS 2011 Mid Year Meeting in Tampa, Florida and for 2 students at the SEAFWA 2012 Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. The student social was sponsored (\$500) at the SEAFWA 2012 Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Chapter News

The **Arkansas Chapter** hosted a joint meeting with the Arkansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society in February 2011 in Little Rock Arkansas to facilitate interaction among scientists. The joint meeting included a Natural Gas Symposium in which 215 people attended including 145 from the Arkansas Chapter.

The Arkansas Chapter continues preparing to host the 2013 National AFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas and has provided \$5,000 to the AFS LR2013 Steering Committee for this effort. Several Steering Committee members were able to attend the National AFS meeting in Seattle, WA in fall 2011 to meet with organizers, garner ideas about meeting organization, and set up an invitational/announcement booth at the Trade Show.

The AR Chapter sent a letter to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requesting the Commission to take immediate actions to protect the Atlantic menhaden from overfishing and restore the population to healthy levels. The Chapter also signed a letter of support for the Ouachita Mountains Shortleaf-Bluestem Alliance to Chief Tom Tidwell of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. requesting approval of the proposed Ouachita Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Proposal. The restoration proposal included language protecting aquatic resources in the Ouachita Mountains.

The **Auburn Chapter** has continued to assist local watershed groups in cleaning streams in the Auburn area. A number of our members attended the 2011 Parent Society meeting in Seattle this fall. Several members also attended the 2011 SEAFWA meeting in Nashville this October. Members presented research in oral presentations and posters. The chapter also gave several travel awards to members to aid in travel expenses for both regional and national AFS and WAS meetings.

We met monthly (and recently bi-monthly) to ensure regular communication with chapter members. We also put on our annual spring social for members in April 2011. Several guest speakers have attended our monthly meetings to talk about current fisheries issues. Members participated in an outreach activity at the local middle school.

We attended 7th grade life science classes and taught the students about Alabama fish and biodiversity. We held a fishing clinic for international students and plan to coordinate this event again this year. We also help collect rods and reels to be refurbished for international students to use. Members participated in the AU-AFS adopt-a-mile cleaning program where a mile adjacent to the Auburn fisheries station is cleared of trash. Members also assisted with the Ag-Roundup, hosted by the College of Agriculture. We assisted with children outreach events, including fish prints and fishing.



After successfully co-hosting the Southern Division AFS spring meeting in Tampa during 2011, the **Florida Chapter** of AFS is looking forward to returning to the Ocala 4-H Camp to enjoy the company of friends and colleagues at our annual chapter meeting from February 21-23, 2012. Our meeting format will again consist of both invited and contributed oral presentations and posters, and a symposium will be held on Wednesday entitled 'Fish habitat use over environmental gradients: response or selection?' More information on the symposium, meeting venue, and registration can be found at <http://www.sdafs.org/flafs/> and in our most recent newsletter (<http://www.sdafs.org/flafs/PDF/October2011Shellcracker.pdf>).

We would also like to sadly note the passing of our Florida colleague Jack Dequine. A mini-symposium commemoration at our Chapter meeting of his contributions to Florida's fisheries science and management is being organized by Micheal Allen msal@ufl.edu.

The **Georgia Chapter** hosted its 2011 annual meeting in Perry, GA on February 1 & 2, 2011. At this meeting, attendees participated in not only the typical research oriented technical presentations, but the first every Chapter non-technical session. The non-technical session was chosen as a venue for fisheries managers and aquaculturists to share perspectives on wide ranging fisheries issues affecting our state. The Chapter's Executive Committee is currently busy planning the 2012 meeting (20th Anniversary Meeting) scheduled for February 7-9, 2012 in Macon, GA. More information about the 2012 meeting is available on the Chapter's website (www.gaafs.org).



The Chapter launched its new website www.gaafs.org in July 2011 as a way to better disseminate information to our membership and to entice new members to join the Chapter. We also work closely the UGA student subunit to further their educational objectives. In addition, we have recently begun development of a mentoring program within the Chapter, which will pair students from colleges around the state with fisheries professionals for a one-year term to learn about the profession and bridge the gap between the academic and management sides of our business.

The **Louisiana Chapter** held its annual meeting January 28-29, 2011 in Lafayette, LA. The meeting, which was themed "Beyond the Horizon, a Brighter Future for Louisiana Fisheries" was well attended with over 100 members present. Students and professionals presented four posters and 34 talks in a diverse range of subjects.

Plans for the 2011 LAAFS meeting have been finalized. The 2011 Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) spring meeting is being held on the same weekend during which the LAAFS annual meeting is typically held. Most agencies and universities are currently under travel constraints; therefore, the decision was made to increase the amount of time between meetings to allow for greater opportunities for travel funding to both meetings. Thus, the 2012 LAAFS chapter meeting will be held in May in Baton Rouge, LA. Planning for a 2011 midyear function is not finalized.

LAAFS member Angela Capello of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) in partnership with the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) continues to coordinate the Native Fish in the Classroom Project. This project provides middle and high school students with background information in fisheries management, fish biology, protected species, and aquatic natural resources. Participating classrooms maintain a nursery aquarium and grow native Louisiana fish

(Paddlefish) from eggs to fingerlings. These fingerlings are returned to LDWF's Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery to help managed the paddlefish population in Louisiana.

LAAFS member Alysse Ferrara organized the 6th Annual Nichols Research Week Student Poster Competition at Nichols State University. The competitions awarded undergraduate and graduate students for scientific poster presentations. Members Melissa Kaintz and Matti Lynn Dantin served as judges.

The Chapter initiated a Travel Awards Program to encourage participation in the 2011 annual meeting of the Parent Society. During this period, the Chapter provided \$5,000 from the Oil Spill Recovery Institute and USGS Wetlands Center to assist six members with attending the AFS annual meeting in Seattle in 2011.

The **Mississippi Chapter** is busy planning the upcoming Southern Division AFS Annual Meeting, which will be held January 26-29, at the IP Casino Resort and Spa on Back Bay in Biloxi. Over 200 abstracts have been submitted for oral and poster presentations. There will be 3 symposia, 7 workshops, 7 technical committee meetings, and a theme session with 3 speakers, in addition to the socials, student-mentor lunch, and other aspects of SDAFS meetings that make them both profitable and enjoyable for all who attend. For all details on the meeting, please visit the website at: www.sdafs.org/meetings/2012/default.htm.



During the summer and fall of 2011 the University of Southern Mississippi Student Subunit helped with multiple CCA Casting for Conservation events and fundraising banquets. The Casting for Conservation events gave members the chance to teach children basic fishing skills in addition to the importance of 'catch and release' fishing and other ways to be a responsible angler. The CCA banquet gave students the opportunity to present research/conservation projects to local fisherman such as Whale Shark sighting surveys and Striped Bass Restoration. The outreach allowed local fisherman attending the CCA banquet to ask questions about these projects and learn about ways they can help further the research.

In addition, the subunit (in partnership with the Mississippi State University AFS Subunit) is busy preparing for the upcoming 2011 Southern Division Meeting to be held in Biloxi, Mississippi. The funds raised will be used to support further student travel to meetings, scholarships for local children to attend Sea Camp at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory where they will learn about the importance of the marine environment, and other endeavors to further the mission of AFS. To learn more about the USM-AFS student subunit please visit our newly updated website: www.usm.edu/gcrl/afs.

The Mississippi State University Student Subunit had a great fall semester full of fun and educational activities, a lot of committee work, and a lot of planning for spring! In October, MSU AFS set fyke nets and electrofished Oktibbeha County Lake with the help of eight fisheries students. These data went to the MDWFP to help with lake monitoring. Further habitat work, such as sinking trees or other fish attractors, may occur later in the spring. We also completed a standard written protocol to ensure quality sampling year after year. For the third straight year, MSU AFS participated in a catfish harvest at the Blackjack Research Facility. This year, over a dozen graduate and undergraduate members assisted in the muddy task of seining the catfish. All harvested catfish were filleted on site and totaled 40 kg of meat. These fillets have been traditionally used for fundraising for the club, with current aspirations this year to host a fish fry/plate lunch. Other activities included a Halloween-themed bake sale, assistance in test development for the state Envirothon competition, fish dissections with a local Science Club, and fundraising for the SD meeting. The spring looks to be eventful as well, with plans for a Valentine's Day Bake Sale, the annual Spring Stream Clean-up, a youth teaching program, and two educational workshops!

The 2011 **North Carolina Chapter** annual meeting was held February 21-23 in Charlotte, North Carolina at the Drury Inn & Suites-Northlake. Along with the business meeting with award presentations, chapter members gathered for technical presentations, a continuing education workshop, student raffle and social events over the three-day conference. The 2012 NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual meeting will be held in Raleigh, NC at the Brownstone Hotel and Conference Center from February 28 – February 29, 2012. Tuesday, February 28, will begin with a continuing education workshop in the morning followed by a technical session after lunch and an evening social with the student raffle.

The Chapter's Outreach and Education committee hosted an education workshop in conjunction with the 2011 NCAFS meeting. Dr. Tom Martin of Western Carolina University led a hands-on introduction to the use of R for statistics and graphics. R is a free, open-source, software environment for statistical computing and graphics (www.r-project.org). Fisheries examples were used to familiarize participants with some of R's capabilities.

NCAFS helped a McDowell County 9th grade science teacher, Melanie Shaver, attain a Toyota Tapestry grant. This grant will purchase a laptop for NCAFS to be shared among Chapter field biologists to Skype with students about their specific interests, projects, etc. The actual funded project is focused on reservoir crappie populations and correlating environmental variables with population dynamics.

Letters were written to the North Carolina governor, North Carolina legislature, and North Carolina Department of Natural Resources supporting the proper scientific review of uranium mining and natural gas exploration proposals.

The Chapter initiated a Student Travel Awards Program in 2005 to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the annual meeting of the Parent Society. In 2011, the Chapter provided \$2,000 from the NCAFS Ichthus fund to assist with student travel for five graduate students to attend the 2011 AFS annual meeting in Seattle.

Oklahoma Chapter AFS members presented a workshop on “FAST” **Fishery Analyses and Simulation Tools** in conjunction with the 2011 annual meeting. In addition, many members are involved in fishing clinics and provide fisheries management information through the media and personal contacts. Members collaborate and work with many different agencies, universities, and clubs or organizations. Student and professional members give presentations at the annual chapter meeting and other professional conferences or meetings. Our chapter website was updated and a list serve was maintained to improve communication and sharing of information.

Oklahoma Chapter AFS members provide local and statewide expertise/ recommendations for stewardship of aquatic resources. They promote protection, sustainable use and recovery of stream and reservoir fisheries. Many members were involved in the development of the new state water plan that includes research and guidelines for protecting ground water, stream flows, water quality, and aquatic resources.



The **Tennessee Chapter** held their annual meeting on March 1-2, 2011 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. The meeting included 17 technical presentations (16 oral and 1 poster). There were about 60 attendees. We provided a donation to support the SDAFS midyear meeting in Biloxi, MS 2012 (\$500). The chapter will host the 2013 Southern Division AFS meeting in Nashville, TN.

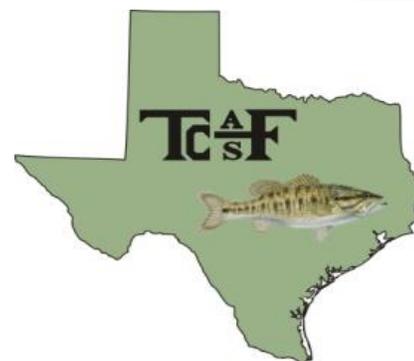
The Tennessee Chapter provides information to its membership through a web site (www.tn-afs.org) and an annual newsletter. Both outlets are used to distribute details regarding upcoming chapter, Southern Division, and national meetings. The web site is used for posting proposed resolutions and other business items, as well as the chapter's procedures manual and history, and

includes other AFS unit links. The newsletter also provides parent society news, updates on current chapter-sponsored and member agency/organization projects, and student fishery association activities.

A close relationship exists between The Tennessee Chapter and our student fisheries associations representing Tennessee Technological University and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. We value their many accomplishments and their participation in AFS at all levels.

The student fisheries association at Tennessee Technological University annually hosts a Kids Fishing Derby in Cookeville, TN. This outreach event likely introduces many kids to sport fishing and helps to foster an appreciation for fisheries and aquatic resources. The Tennessee Chapter allowed the Student group to conduct a silent auction at the chapter meeting to raise funds for the fishing derby.

The 2012 **Texas Chapter** annual meeting will be held at Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa, and Conference Center in Galveston on February 9-11, 2012. The theme of the Plenary Session is “Invasive Species and their Impact on Aquatic & Marine Ecosystems.” The meeting will consist of two continuing education courses, an evening social inside the Moody Gardens aquarium on Thursday, plenary and contributed sessions, our banquet/auction on Friday evening, and the TCAFS business meeting on Saturday. Go to <http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/12meet/2012meethome.html> for additional information or contact George Guillen (guillen@uhcl.edu). For those who are unable to attend, podcasts of meeting plenary and technical presentations will be made available.



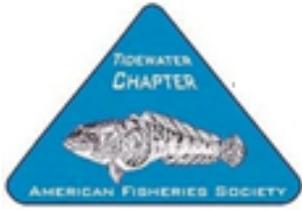
TCAFS Members, headed up by Mandy Scott, were once again active in assisting with “Bass Brigades.” Bass Brigades is a unique fisheries-based leadership camp for teens. Four additional TCAFS members assisted the 24 cadets at this year’s camp held at Warren Ranch in Coleman County.

TCAFS members spent considerable time and effort updating Chapter bylaws, procedures, and historical records. The Chapter’s Procedural Handbook was updated and separated into four stand-alone documents: 1) Chapter Purpose and Goals; 2) Bylaws; 3) Procedures; and 4) lists of past presidents, meeting locations, and award/scholarship recipients. The Chapter web site was revised to better host this information. Each now resides within its own web link under the newly-created “About Us” menu tab. Bylaws revisions have been provided to chapter members through our email Listserv and reviews were incorporated. The Parent Society’s Constitutional Consultant reviewed and approved the latest round of edits. A final revised draft was provided electronically to Chapter members. We will vote whether to approve this draft at our business meeting in February. If approved by the chapter, bylaws will be submitted to the Southern Division EXCOM and the Society’s Governing Board for potential approval.

The TCAFS enabled remote attendance of Chapter EXCOM meetings possible through web-conferencing technology and web cameras. TCAFS members are geographically dispersed and member travel budgets have been tightened. Facilitating remote attendance for EXCOM meetings has increased efficiency, reduced travel costs, and increased participation.

The TCAFS developed a Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/#!/TCAFS>) and maintained an email listserv to enhance communication and information sharing. The TCAFS published four Chapter newsletters during 2011. Newsletters are available on the Chapter’s web site.

The TCAFS donated \$300 to support the Bass Brigades Program and \$500 to the SDAFS Small Impoundment Committee to support publication of an AFS book on small impoundment fisheries management.



The **Tidewater Chapter** hosted its annual meeting from March 10 – 12, 2011 to facilitate interaction among scientists within the coastal waters of Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. A total of 85 people attended the meeting, 45 professionals and 40 students. This meeting celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Tidewater Chapter, promoting the parent society's mission to improve the conservation and sustainability of fisheries resources while promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The Tidewater chapter appreciates the broad spectrum of talks given this year ranging from headwaters regions (stream suitability indices for brook trout) to the ocean (trophic ecology of pelagic predators). The 2012 meeting is scheduled for March 8 – 12 in Beaufort, NC. Planning and certification is ongoing for the development of a continuing education course to be held during the 2012 annual chapter meeting. The course, Growth Modeling, will be free of charge and will be taught by North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Senior Stock Assessment Scientist Laura Lee.

Tidewater members continue to remain active in providing advisory services to local, state, regional, and federal agencies including but not limited to: the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and Sea Grant.

The Tidewater Chapter of AFS maintains a website (<http://www.sdafs.org/tidewater/AFSTidewater/Home.html>) providing contact information for current officers. Additionally, the website provides copies of meeting minutes and the bi-annual newsletter as well as pertinent information regarding other chapter activities. The bi-annual newsletter is also sent to the membership as a pdf through a list-serve e-mail.

On February 8-10, 2011, the **Virginia Chapter** and the West Virginia Chapter held a joint meeting at Cacapon State Park near Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. A total of 84 fisheries and aquatic resource professionals attended the meeting. An additional 18 students, from numerous universities across the region participated. The meeting provided fisheries professionals and students an opportunity to exchange management and research information concerning Virginia's aquatic resources. In 2011, the Chapter worked closely with Dominion Virginia Power to acquire funding support for the Chapter's annual meeting and the initiation of an Education & Outreach project.



Two continuing education workshops were offered at minimal cost on February 8 at the joint Virginia/ West Virginia AFS meeting. The first workshop, *Field Chemistry Refresher*, was taught by Dr. Dan Downey with James Madison University. Zac Loughman, an instructor at West Liberty University, conducted the second workshop entitled *Natural History, Conservation and Taxonomy of West Virginia and Virginia Crayfish*.

In 2011, the Chapter's outreach committee initiated preliminary work on formation of a Fishes of Virginia Field Guide. A team of eight committee members is continuing to compile more than 200 species of fish into a colorful and descriptive booklet that will have the potential to be a waterproof streamside companion for students and biologists to use as a quick key for fish identification. The project will continue into 2012.



With the start of another school year, the **Virginia Tech Chapter** has been busy hosting several monthly meetings with prominent speakers from Virginia fisheries biologists. We have also undertaken several fundraising campaigns, completed a fish assessment of a local stream, and aided in a mentoring program between undergraduate and graduate students.

Plans are underway for the joint meeting between the Virginia and Virginia Tech chapters to be held January 31-February 2 in Blacksburg, Virginia. The meeting will be complete with two continuing education workshops, two days of presentations, and two evening socials.

The **West Virginia Chapter** held its annual meeting on February 8 – 10, 2011 at Cacapon State Park. The meeting was held jointly with the Virginia AFS Chapter. The meeting title was “Meeting of the Virginia’s” and approximately 100 fisheries professionals and students attended the meeting. Topics included ongoing fish management activities in headwater streams, large rivers, small impoundments, and reservoirs. In addition, several presenters discussed environmental issues affecting fisheries throughout both states.

The 2012 WV AFS Annual Chapter meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2012 NEAFWA meeting in Charleston, WV from April 15 – 17.

SDAFS Happenings

Jerry Finke to Continue as SDAFS Webmaster: We are all pleased to hear that Jerry Finke is doing very well now, and is back to work. It was through a misunderstanding on my part that I put out a call for a volunteer to serve as webmaster for the Southern Division after I heard of Jerry's illness. Jerry is doing much better now, and will continue as our Division webmaster for the foreseeable future. Thanks to Jerry for his fine service in the past, and for his willingness to continue that service for the Southern Division. *Brian R. Murphy, SDAFS President-elect*



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The Northwest Environmental Training Center (NWETC), a Washington-based, non-profit organization dedicated to environmental education, is seeking U.S. venues for its 2012 electrofishing courses. Two 3-day courses are available: backpack electrofishing and boat electrofishing. Both courses consist of classroom work on the first and third days and field exercises on the second day. A 4-day course covering both backpack and boat systems, including two days of fieldwork, is also available.

To schedule a venue, NWETC seeks to (1) identify a local fisheries biologist willing to serve as field trip coordinator and (2) achieve an enrollment of at least 12 participants. (Those serving as coordinator earn a course tuition waiver.)

Individuals interested in scheduling a course in their locale should contact Ingrid Kimball, ikimball@nwetc.org, at NWETC for further information. Technical questions about course content should be directed to Jim Reynolds, jbreyndolds@alaska.edu.