



Summer 2014

Southern Division News

Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society



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Questions/comments:

Brandon Peoples
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President's Message: *Connectivity*

John Jackson, SDAFS President, jjackson@atu.edu

Summer has arrived and Chapter Meetings have wrapped up. Based on the feedback I received energy we gained through professional and personal exchange at the Charleston, South Carolina Southern Division Meeting carried over and was amplified through our Chapter Meetings this past spring. I am amazed at how connections through our Society help sustain our friendships, shape our professional identities, and inspire our dreams.



I recently asked Chapter Presidents to provide some of their meeting highlights to share among the Southern Division membership. I was blown away with the activity taking place. More than 800 members attended Chapter Meetings that were highlighted by 250+ presentations and 50+ posters.

Mississippi and Tennessee joined together for a meeting as did Oklahoma and Texas. The Florida Chapter incorporated a tag-team approach to presentations where a researcher and manager presented on a particular species or a research/management situation. Student Sub-unit support by the Chapters was a primary focus this past year. More than \$14,000 was given to students for travel and recognition of outstanding presentations and posters. In addition, Chapters recognized excellence in conservation and



service by awarding individuals and organizations. Many Chapters conducted continuing education workshops including habitat mapping with side-scan sonar (North Carolina Chapter) and preventing spread of non-native species (Oklahoma Chapter). Chapters in the Southern Division set the standard.

I want to encourage all of the Chapters to keep up the excellent work and to continue to connect with our Student Sub-units. To facilitate some additional connections among our members, I would like to see the Student Sub-units invite a Chapter or Division Executive Committee member to one of your meetings this coming year. We all need to encourage student members to become involved in AFS at the Chapter, Division, and Society levels. Reach out, become a mentor to our younger professionals and help them become contributing members of our Society. You will not regret it.

A note from the editor



It has been a pleasure to serve Southern Division and Virginia Tech Chapter as newsletter editor. Over the past two years, the position has allowed me to learn so much more about the inner workings of the Division, the people that make everything possible, and the massive amount of effort they invest. This winter will see a new SDAFS newsletter—Sasha Doss, who is sure to bring a new level of creativity to our newsletter. Until Savannah...Cheers, SDAFS -- *Brandon Peoples*



SDAFS resolution on off-road vehicle use in streams

American Fisheries Society
Southern Division

RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES IN STREAMS

WHEREAS, off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) are popularly defined as all-terrain vehicles, commonly known as ATV's, motor cycles designed for off-highway use, 4-wheel drive jeeps, automobiles or sport utility vehicles and other vehicles specially designed for off-road use (Stokowski and LaPointe 2000; Cordell et al. 2005); and

WHEREAS, according to industry and government reports, (cited in Cordell et al. 2005), the number of off-highway motorcycles and ATV's in the United States reached 8 million in 2003, with ATV's accounting for 70% of that number; and

WHEREAS, surveys in 1999-2004 documented that between 18-24% of Americans or 39-51 million people 16 years of age and older participated in OHV recreation one or more times within a year of the survey date (Cordell et al. 2005) and there were 15.6 million residents of states in the Southern Division- AFS geographical area who indicated they were OHV recreational users in those surveys (data from Cordell et al. 2005); and

WHEREAS, the mean annual OHV recreational use by these residents was 29 days in a 2001-2003 survey (Cordell et al. 2005); and

WHEREAS, these OHV users are two times more likely to participate in fishing and three times more likely to participate in hunting than the general public participation rate (Cordell et al. 2005); and

WHEREAS, we recognize and affirm that OHVs are needed to cross streams by those working in --- but not limited to --- agriculture, ranching, livestock production, mining, oil, gas and mineral exploration and extraction, electric power, water and wastewater transmission, pipeline construction, and telecommunication cable services. All these activities share a common purpose which allows OHV use when necessary but not solely for recreational pursuits; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and support the rights of private property owners to secure and protect their land and water resources from unsolicited, unwanted or unlawful use by others; and

WHEREAS, ORVs can traverse small streams which are found in abundance throughout the United States. The scientific findings regarding the negative effects of these vehicles across a broad expanse of North American streams have been well documented (Stokowski and LaPointe 2000; Ouren et al. 2007); In general, the impact of ORV use in streams is one of habitat disturbance, which largely determines the structure and persistence of aquatic communities. In many streams, disturbance has a simplifying effect upon the aquatic biota, reducing species diversity, and trophic interactions. Some species are unable to adapt and disappear from the modified environment; and

WHEREAS, in a study of impacted and unimpacted sections of the Nueces River, Texas, Garrett (2001) found obvious impacts to the physical habitat at the site used by ORVs, including a heavily scoured appearance and lack of aquatic vegetation at the impacted site. They found significant differences in the fish communities between the two sites. The impacted site had less than half of the number of fishes found at the unimpacted site, and the species compositions were significantly different. Pollution tolerant species dominated the fish community, species requiring edge habitats were missing, environmentally sensitive species were in greatly reduced abundances and sport fishes were not abundant at the impacted site; and

WHEREAS, ORVs damage streams by breaking down stream banks and damaging riparian vegetation along and in the stream course. This results in erosion, siltation and the prevention of bank stabilization, which increases the potential for other water pollution impacts (Harrison 1980; Wilshire 1983, Edwards and Burns 1986, Allan 1995); and

WHEREAS, damage to stream beds and banks and increased siltation from ORVs may further impact fishes by changing the local temperatures of streams, causing extreme temperatures to increase. Many fishes rely on certain temperature changes for reproduction, and the increased temperature variability can lead to population decreases (U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture 1999). Other changes resulting from disturbances from ORVs include changes in stream benthic communities and community organization (Peterson 1994; Buzby 1998, Covich et al. 1999); and

WHEREAS, when ORVs are driven near streams, they can cause damage to riparian vegetation. Payne et al. (1983) recorded a direct relationship between the number of trips over an area and the amount of damage to vegetation; up to 99% vegetation loss resulted after 32 passes with an all-terrain vehicle. Vegetation loss was found to carry over into subsequent years and, after one year, up to 85% of all-terrain vehicle tracks were still visible. Some tracks were still evident two years after the last passage of an off-road vehicle; and

WHEREAS, during low water conditions, some recreational ORV users use the stream course as a trail, travelling along the stream bed, instead of merely crossing the stream; and

WHEREAS, the conservation group, Tread Lightly!, recommends that ORV users “avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands, and streams” and ORV advocacy groups, such as All Terrain Vehicle Association, recommend only crossing streams at designated fording points and at 90° angles to lessen environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, because of prior evidence of damage from ORVs, their unregulated use on federal lands has now been restricted. Executive Orders 11644 and 11989 (signed by Presidents Nixon in 1972 and Carter in 1977) were issued to "ensure that the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands; and

WHEREAS, the impacts on aquatic ecosystems and stream dynamics are so significant that the states of Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Texas, have either banned or severely restricted the recreational use of ORVs in stream beds; and

WHEREAS, the Texas and Louisiana Chapters of the AFS have adopted policy statements on the use of ORVs in streams in 2002 and 2013, respectively; and

WHEREAS, it seems prudent that similar concerns be expressed for the impact of OHVs/ORVs on all streams within the geographical boundaries of the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, therefore be it;

RESOLVED, that the members of the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at their annual meeting on this 30th day of January in the year 2015 at Savannah, Georgia strongly recommend that state fish and wildlife agencies and state environmental permitting agencies --- while respecting existing private property rights -- hereby promulgate and enact state laws and state regulations as they deem appropriate to prohibit the recreational use of OHVs along stream courses and to severely restrict stream crossings by recreational OHV users in order to protect and conserve the integrity of these waterway habitats and the flora and fauna inhabiting them.

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SDAFS Officer Candidate Biographies

Candidates for Vice President

Craig Bonds



Craig Bonds is a regional director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division where his work focuses on recreational fisheries management in public reservoirs, urban impoundments, and rivers in East Texas. He is a fifteen-year veteran of his agency.

Craig earned his B.S. from Texas A&M University in 1996 and his M.S. from Virginia Tech in 2000. He has been a member of AFS since 1997 and is a Certified Fisheries Professional. He is a graduate of his agency's Natural Leaders Program and has experience in various leadership and service positions.

Craig has served the Texas Chapter AFS at many levels (President, Feb 2011 – Feb 2012; Secretary/Treasurer, 2007-2009; Editorial Committee Chair, 2005-2007; Pond Management Committee Chair, 2002-2005). He recently served the Southern Division AFS as Ballot Committee Chair (2006-2008), and is currently serving the final year of his term as Division Secretary/Treasurer. Craig currently serves the Society on its Audit Committee and as representative of the Fisheries Administration Section on the AFS Educational Requirements

Special Committee. Serving at various levels within the organization has given Craig a thorough knowledge of the inner workings of the Society.

Craig's work has been recognized, earning the 2007 TCAFS Best Professional Oral Presentation Award, the SDAFS John F. Dequine Award for Best Paper at the 2006 and 2008 SEAFWA Conferences, and two-time winner of the TCAFS Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award for the categories of Special Recognition (2011) and Administration (2012). If elected, Craig pledges to work enthusiastically to uphold the Division's high standard for service, professionalism, information exchange, and student support.

Wes Porak



Wes has been an active AFS member for over 25 years; including his service as President, President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida Chapter AFS (FLAFS). He has served on the following AFS committees, many at the chapter, division and/or national level: Reservoir, Black Bass Conservation, Program (chapter, division, and national), Fund Raising, Local Arrangements, Site Selection, Nominating, Awards, Membership, Raffle, Auditing, Chapter Development, and Scholarship.

Wes has organized numerous symposia and technical sessions; which includes his role as Steering Committee Chair for the *Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation* symposium at the Nashville SDAFS meeting.

Wes completed an M.S. degree from Tennessee Tech University (TTU) and started his career working on reservoirs while employed by the Illinois Natural History Survey, streams as a grad student at TTU, and the Great Lakes while employed with USFWS. Since then, Wes has been a research biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission evaluating population level effects of stocking, regulating angler harvest, and habitat management on black bass populations. Recent studies have focused on bass nesting, reproduction, genetics, and conservation.

As a SDAFS officer, Wes will bring a lot of energy to any and all efforts that he is involved with. He feels that these efforts should be prioritized by current needs of the SDAFS membership.

Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

Kim Bonvechio



Kim received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina in 1998 and Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida in 2001.

She has worked the majority of her career as a freshwater fisheries researcher with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Kim has collaborated with other professionals, within and outside the state agency, to implement and evaluate standardized sampling procedures for Florida's statewide long-term monitoring program. She has also participated on multiple teams and committees contributing to the development of several website, data management, statistical, and fisheries management projects. Within AFS, she has acted as a peer reviewer for various AFS journals and books, member of the Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee, member of the South Carolina and Florida Chapters, co-organizer for a professional Southern Division AFS workshop, creator of an online abiotic habitat manual for the Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee, and Newsletter Editor for the Florida AFS Chapter.

Currently, she is serving as the Southern Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, a position she has held since 2013. Kim has strong organizational and time management skills, as well as a strong attention to detail. Kim says "I appreciate this opportunity to serve, and if elected, I look forward to my tenure as your next Secretary-Treasurer! "

Jill Hendon

Jill Hendon is a research scientist in the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (part of the University of Southern Mississippi). She has a bachelor of science from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and a master of science from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Her current work focuses on distribution, movements, population monitoring, and reproduction/age and growth of coastal shark species. Jill is an active member of AFS and served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Mississippi Chapter from 2010-2012. She also served as Financial Manager for the 2012 Southern Division meeting held in Biloxi, Mississippi, as hosted by the Mississippi Chapter, and received an AFS Distinguished Service award for her work. Recently, Jill was also recognized by the parent chapter as a Certified Fisheries Professional.



Candidates for SDAFS Representative to the Nominating Committee

Kyle Hartman



Kyle Hartman is a professor and Assistant Director of the Division of Forestry and Natural Resources at West Virginia University. He has served AFS at many levels having chaired or served on such committees as the Nominating Committee, Time and Place Committee, Program Committee, Best Paper Award subcommittee for *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, and Best Student Paper Committee.

He has been a member of AFS since 1984 and became a life member in 1987. In addition he is a past president of the AFS Fish Habitat Section and the WV Chapter of AFS and served as an associate editor for *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. His Ph.D. was completed in 1993 at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and his M.S. (1989) and B.S. (1984) were earned from Ohio State University. Between degrees he worked for the USFWS and Ohio Division of Wildlife.

During his 17 years at WVU, he has come to know and mentor numerous undergraduate and graduate students. His former graduate students are widely distributed across the U.S. working in a variety of state and federal agencies, the private sector, and academia. Kyle has had the great pleasure to work in a variety of systems and a variety of species. Past work has dealt with everything from headwater streams to Great Lakes and open ocean and species therein. Current projects involve long term studies of headwater streams and brook trout populations; discontinuities in aquatic communities from dams; effects of climate change on Mongolian salmonids; larval fish use of river habitat; and epigenetics in fish. His research has led to over 80 peer-reviewed publications, several book chapters, and over 200 professional presentations. If elected, he looks forward to serving the Southern Division on the Nominating Committee.

Mike Kaller



Mike Kaller is an associate professor and Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs in the School of Renewable Natural Resources at Louisiana State University, as well as, associate rector of the Agriculture Residence College.

He also serves the President of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He completed a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science with a minor in Applied Statistics in 2005 at Louisiana State University. He also earned a M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from West Virginia University and a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University.

Aside from a short service with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department during 1997-1998, he has worked in academic environments where he takes great enjoyment in teaching and mentoring graduate and undergraduate students. He has completed three M.S. student as a chair or co-chair, currently directly advises one Ph.D. student and three M.S. students,

indirectly advises one M.S. student, and serves on 10 other graduate committees at LSU and the University of New Orleans.

Mike has worked with fish and fisheries projects in southwestern Louisiana, the Florida Parishes, and extensively in the Atchafalaya River basin with state and federal agencies, including the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

He has researched largemouth bass, aquatic invertebrates, Gulf sturgeon, floodplain and stream fish assemblages, and feral hogs resulting in 26 peer-reviewed publications, 3 edited book chapters, 13 other edited publications, and 106 presentations.

Candidates for Student Representative on SDAFS EXCOM

Brandon Peoples



Brandon is a PhD student at Virginia Tech. He earned his B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology at Arkansas Tech, and his M.S. in Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech. After his M.S., he worked as an aquatic ecologist for the Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality for two years.

His research has ranged from evaluating the effects of invasive species on large reservoir ecology, to surveying never-before-studied stream systems in interior Central America. His current work focuses on how keystone species drive fish communities.

Brandon has been active in AFS since a freshman in 2004. He has served as secretary and president of the Arkansas Tech subunit, president of Virginia Tech chapter, and has worked on the steering committee for the 2013 AFS meeting in Little Rock. Since 2012, he has edited the SDAFS newsletter. He helps administrate the AFS Facebook page, and he recently started a Facebook page for SDAFS (...look us up and join the conversation!). Brandon is also a regular contributor on the 5-person team at *The Fisheries Blog*.

Zach Siders

Zach Siders is a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and a fellow in the NOAA NMFS RTR Program.

He received a B.S. in biology, B.A. in chemistry, and M.S. in biology from University of North Carolina Wilmington. There, he served as President of the Department of Biology and Marine Biology's Graduate Student Association, leading professional development workshops and fundraising for student travel. His research focuses on predator-prey interactions across spatial scales using field studies and quantitative models.

Zach joined AFS in 2013, presenting at the National and Southern Division meetings. He is pleased to run for the student representative to the Southern Division EXCOM meeting and will work diligently to act for student interests in the society.



Meeting announcements

**2013 American Fisheries Society Meeting
Québec City, Québec
17-21 August, 2014**



Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Northeastern Division, the Atlantic International Chapter and the Canadian Aquatic Resources Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), cordially invite you to attend the 144th Annual Meeting that will be held in Québec City from 17 to 21 August 2014.

Located on the bank of the St. Lawrence River, Québec is one of the world's most beautiful cities. The area's European appeal and North American lifestyle, complete with a storied history, thriving art scene, and vibrant French-speaking culture, make it truly one of a kind.

The "Joie de Vivre" and hospitality of Québec City's people is part of everyday life. Wherever you go, you'll be welcomed with open arms, and the proverbial warmth for which Québec City is famous.

A hop, skip and jump from downtown, visitors are already in another world – there's a whole outdoor playground to discover. Talk about nirvana for sports enthusiasts! In town or in the great outdoors, a pair of walking shoes will take you far.



SOUTHERN DIVISION OF
THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



SAVANNAH 2015



January 28-February 1, 2015
Hyatt Regency Savannah
@SDAFS15

Save the date:

68th Annual SEAFWA Conference

Destin, Florida

October 19-22

seafwa.org/conferences/2014

Conservation: Managing for Resilience and Adaptability



October 19 - 22, 2014 / Destin, Florida

Make plans now to join us for the **68th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Fish & Wildlife Agencies**. <http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2014/index.html>



Many really good fisheries abstracts have been submitted on topics ranging from Sauger in Tennessee rivers to Lionfish in the Florida Keys. We have also planned several timely symposiums, including:

1. **Components of Catch-and-Release Fisheries that Influence Management Actions** – Information will be presented on how hook type, barotraumas effects, tools to reduce barotraumas, handling mortality, fishing tournaments, and high voluntary release rates influence management decisions by regulatory agencies.
2. **Environmental Flows and Levels** - One of the most critical issues facing fish (and other aquatic and marine life) is water quality and quantity in lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, springs, and estuaries. This symposium will cover what we currently know about the ecological impacts of minimum water flows and levels on aquatic and marine life, and what management agencies are doing to manage and regulate flow.
3. **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Restoration in the Southeastern U.S.A.** - Sometimes related to water flows and levels, another critical issue for fish and wildlife populations is habitat losses and degradation. This symposium will focus on habitat restoration across the southeast; environments ranging from streams to corral reefs. Speakers will discuss techniques, challenges, and development of partnerships for habitat restoration programs.

Destin, Florida boasts some of the most beautiful beaches in the country and this is sure to be a meeting to remember. Don't forget to plan some extra time to explore the area's natural surroundings. The conference planning committee is also organizing some special events that you won't want to miss! Please call if you have any questions,

Wes Porak
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
352-800-5014

AHOY! You're Invited to the Aquatic Resources Education Association Biennial Conference, "The Headwaters: Improving Aquatic Education at its Source."

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is hosting the 2014 Aquatic Resources Education Association Biennial Conference October 26 – 30 in Traverse City, MI, at the Park Place Hotel. Information about the conference may be found at www.michigan.gov/area. The agenda is available at [www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/AREA Full conference agenda overview 450811 7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/AREA_Full_conference_agenda_overview_450811_7.pdf).

The conference is designed for representatives of state, federal industry, fisheries and education professionals and dedicated volunteers involved in aquatic resource education programs.

Sponsor Opportunities

- [Sponsor Invitation](#) PDF
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- [Thanks to our conference sponsors!](#)



RECREATIONAL
BOATING & FISHING
FOUNDATION

2014 SDAFS meeting minutes

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring EXCOM Meeting
January 23, 2014
Charleston, South Carolina**

President Mike Allen called the EXCOM to order at 3:30 pm. President Allen thanked Mendy Willis for assisting with putting the briefing book together. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds announced a quorum was present. President Allen called roll and the following proxies were identified: Arkansas (Jeffrey Williams), Florida (Drew Dutterer), Louisiana (Robby Maxwell), Mississippi (Stephen Brown), North Carolina (Christian Waters), and Virginia (Vic DiCenzo). Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, Mike Allen; Past-President, Brian Murphy; President-Elect, John Jackson; Vice-President, Dennis Riecke; and Secretary-Treasurer, Craig Bonds). President Allen acknowledged AFS President, Bob Hughes, and Executive Director, Doug Austen, who were absent at the beginning of the meeting. President Allen informed the EXCOM that he expected their arrival and encouraged the group to engage them during the Division meeting. President Allen recognized SDAFS Past Presidents Pat Mazik and Steve Lochmann.

SDAFS President Report

President Allen stated his report was covered in the briefing book, copies of which were distributed to the EXCOM on portable USB drives. President Allen thanked the Division officers for their service during the year. He updated the group on the Society's hiring of Doug Austen as AFS Executive Director. President Allen concluded by stating he would save the details of his report for the Business meeting.

SDAFS Officer Reports

President-Elect John Jackson provided his report. John was able to attend two Chapter meetings during the year (AR and NC). He attended monthly Society Management Committee meetings as the SDAFS representative and explained the working functions of the committee. John reported increased efficiencies resulting from changes to the organizational structure and how the Management Committee and Governing Board operate. John will represent the Southern Division at the Western Division Meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. The Division will help cover his travel expenses. John mentioned that a couple of other Division members received travel grants to attend the meeting. The Southern Division contributed \$500 to the travel grant pool.

Vice-President Dennis Riecke attended the MS and LA Chapter meetings. He has been forwarding job postings and general announcements to the Division listserv until it lost functionality.

Past-President Brian Murphy fulfilled his role as chair of the Nominating Committee. Brian mentioned the recent passing of Dave Willis (Professor, South Dakota State) and informed the EXCOM that the officers plan a special remembrance and recognition of him at the Business meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2013 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2013 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Dave Coughlan), and the 2013 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Bonds reported the 2012 Division tax return was submitted prior to the deadline. The 2013 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2013 with \$11,927.86 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Nashville Meeting (\$5,463.61) and the AFS dues rebate (\$7,760). The Division received \$5,000 from the John F. DeQuine Trust and \$3,000 from the Mississippi Chapter as repayment from Hurricane Katrina assistance. The Division received \$296 from the Society for book sale rebates, which were dispersed to appropriate Technical Committees. The Division's checking account received the balance (\$6,768.12) from closing the Student Affairs account. Closing the Student Affairs account would increase efficiency and eliminate hassles associated with bank account transfers following Student Affairs Committee leadership changes. Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. The SDAFS provided financial support to the SDAFS Student Affairs Committee (\$5,500); the AFS Equal Opportunity Section (\$500); the Division's Black Bass Conservation Ad-Hoc Committee (\$1,000 in support of special symposium); the American Cancer Society (\$100 in memory of former member Jerry Finke); Mississippi State University Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Aquaculture (\$500 to support the Southeastern Natural Resources Graduate Student Symposium); the Western Division (\$500 to support travel grants to 2014 Mazatlan meeting); and the Puerto Rico Chapter (\$3,000 in seed money for the new unit). Various other expenses (e.g., awards, plaques, internet service, conference calls, postage, SDAFS expenses at the Nashville Meeting, officer travel, archiving historical information, etc.) have been expensed as received. The total assets in the Southern Division's checking account as of 31 December 2013 were \$21,478.92 and \$6,000 of this is set aside in a Strategic Reserve Fund. Accounting for an outstanding check for \$75, year-end checkbook and financial statement balances are in agreement. An audit of the 2013 financial information was completed 21 January 2014 by the SD Audit Committee and reported to President Allen. Past-President Murphy made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report which was seconded by Vic DiCenzo. Motion passed.

The Proposed 2014 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Finances for 2014 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2014 while still leaving enough cash for early 2015 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2015 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Charleston Meeting. Projected income in 2014 is \$28,606 and expenses are projected at \$21,350 for an end of year balance of \$7,256. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. A motion was made (Vic DiCenzo) and seconded (Tim Bonvechio) to approve the 2014 budget. After no further discussion, the proposed 2014 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

AFS President Bob Hughes Remarks

President Allen welcomed AFS President Bob Hughes and invited him to address the EXCOM. President Hughes mentioned the Society is seeking candidates through the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program, which would fund part of their travel to participate in Society governance. He encouraged prospective applicants. Each applicant would need a supporting letter from a Governing Board member (e.g. Section or Division officer). Bob encouraged units to consider investing part of their money in the Society's investment account in order to earn a greater long-term return. Interested units should consult AFS Executive Director Doug Austen. Bob expects the development of an amendment to the Society constitution to state that each Division would supply one individual to serve on the Society's Audit Committee. He encouraged the Southern Division to consider providing an individual to serve on this committee. Bob mentioned the Society is soliciting another individual from either the Northeast or Southern Division to serve on the Society's Investment Committee.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks

President Allen welcomed AFS Executive Director Doug Austen and invited him to address the EXCOM. Doug stated it was his first Southern Division meeting and he was glad to be there. He updated the EXCOM on Society changes, including website redesign and re-visioning office staff organization and function. The Society is bringing on a new staffer (Policy Director) next month. Society leaders met in Washington D.C. with agency and NGO leaders across the fisheries spectrum to try and re-engage AFS as the leading voice in fisheries issues and policy. Doug concluded by extending an invitation to members to come and visit the Bethesda office.

Reports from Committees with Action Items

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke, updated the EXCOM on the status of the resolution on off-highway vehicle use in stream beds. The LA Chapter passed a policy statement on off-road vehicle use in stream beds in September 2013, which was built off of a TX Chapter policy statement passed in 2002. The LA Chapter asked Chair Riecke to use their policy statement as the basis for a Division resolution addressing this issue. Chair Riecke combined elements of those two statements into a Division draft resolution. The draft was posted on the Division website in mid-December with a 30-day comment period. One editorial comment was received. Our bylaws require posting resolutions in the newsletter prior to voting. Issues with the listserv crashing precluded our ability to publish and distribute our fall newsletter. Once our listserv functionality is restored, the resolution will be published for another comment period prior to an online vote. The draft resides on the Division website. No action was taken on this update.

Chair Riecke notified the EXCOM that a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2014 Meeting in Charleston would be presented at the Business Meeting for membership consideration.

President Allen reported that Archiving Ad Hoc Committee Chair, Greg Summers, will be working on electronically cataloging old newsletters and other archived information. No action was needed on this update.

Chapter Reports

Arkansas – Report stands as written.

Auburn University – Did not submit a written report to the Briefing Book. Noted they want to reconnect with the Division. They conducted fundraising to assist five students to attend the Division meeting. They

also conducted community outreach and held monthly meetings, largely focused on professional development activities. Some discussion ensued regarding the possibility of an Alabama Chapter being established in the future. President-Elect Jackson requested that they communicate further and offered to attend one of their meetings.

Florida - Report stands as written. Noted the FL Chapter bid to host the Society meeting in Tampa in 2017.

Georgia - Report stands as written. Joey Slaughter noted the 2015 Division meeting will be held in Savannah, January 28 through February 1, at the Hyatt Regency Savannah Riverfront. Marketing for the meeting will begin soon through social media. The program committee is largely in place. Tim Bonvechio updated EXCOM on HR 996 bill (Invasive Species Screening Act) and the solicitation for GA Chapter support. Several GA Chapter members expressed concerns about wording in the bill. Tim solicited advice from the Division officers, who elevated the issue to the Society level. The Society issued comment, making it easier for the Chapter to respond. President Allen reported that this was a good example where the Society dealt with fisheries policy in a constructive way. Details are in the briefing book.

Kentucky - Report stands as written.

Louisiana - Report stands as written. Robby Maxwell described the process involved with developing the LA Chapter's policy statement on off-road vehicle use in streams and its influence on LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and state legislative actions relevant to the issue.

Mississippi - Report stands as written.

North Carolina - Report stands as written.

Oklahoma - Report stands as written.

Potomac - Not present. Report stands as written.

Puerto Rico - Miguel Garcia thanked the Division for the \$3,000 donation, serving as seed money for the new Chapter. He expressed the desire of his Chapter to host a future Division meeting, which was warmly received by the EXCOM.

South Carolina - President Allen recognized and thanked the South Carolina meeting planning leadership and committee for their work hosting a successful Division meeting. Report stands as written. Noted the 2014 Division meeting attracted 525 registrants, which is one of the higher attendances for a Division meeting. (*Secretary's Note: By the end of the meeting, registered attendees totaled 561.*)

Tennessee - Report stands as written.

Texas - Report stands as written.

Tidewater - Report stands as written.

Virginia - Report stands as written. Vic DiCenzo thanked Gloria Schoenholtz for her work in converting their Chapter website over to WordPress platform and encouraged other units to utilize her skills in a similar fashion.

Virginia Tech - Report stands as written.

West Virginia - Report stands as written.

Other Old Business

President Allen reported Gloria Schoenholtz has done an outstanding job as webmaster and converting Division and unit websites to the WordPress platform. Vic DiCenzo asked whether any Division officers had administrator access to the website. President Allen replied that it was just Gloria. Vic recounted how advantageous it was for multiple VA Chapter members to have administrator rights in order to make their own updates to their Chapter website. Secretary-Treasurer Bonds noted that is an advantage and a goal to have multiple administrators for each website to remove some of the burden off of Gloria long term.

Past-President Murphy noted challenges associated with getting people to agree to run for office. He advocated getting an early start in soliciting nominations and to contact President Allen with suggestions for candidates. Society President Hughes mentioned it is critical to have the Division's representative to the AFS Nominating Committee in place by August. President Allen solicited volunteers to serve on the Ballot Committee. He thanked Vic DiCenzo for chairing the committee in 2013.

New Business

Future meeting locations were discussed. President Allen noted that the 2015 meeting location (GA) had already been discussed. He noted the 2016 Division Meeting will be held in West Virginia. Pat Mazik confirmed the dates (February 17 - 21) and location (Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling). Oklahoma Chapter has discussed hosting in 2017, but has not been finalized. AFS President Hughes noted the Society's 2017 annual meeting will be held in Tampa, FL. Jim Long inquired what the OK Chapter needed to do to finalize their host bid. President Allen suggested that the OK Chapter discuss, decide and formally inform the Division President in writing. Jim said the OK Chapter would vote on this at their upcoming business meeting. President Allen noted the Division procedures could provide more detailed guidance on this process.

President Allen discussed his dealings with the Division listserv issues. He reported that Sarah Gilbert-Fox at AFS has been extremely helpful in assisting us restore functionality, but operational details are still a work in progress. Gail Goldberg (AFS) quickly generated a Division email address list (> 1,600 members). AFS paid the initial fee for the new listserv platform (emaildodo), and it is now operational. Several minutes of discussion followed addressing listserv operational topics such as future administrators/moderators, testing functionality, member email list updating, member opt-out, supporting software upgrades, and merging non-AFS Chapter members.

AFS Executive Director Austen reported Eva (AFS staff) will send email mailing lists monthly to units. He noted that if units would submit their complete member lists to Bethesda, the Society's staff would track both AFS and non-AFS chapter members for the units. This would allow units to maintain updated listserv lists and provide the Society a tool for marketing memberships to non-members. President Allen reported that the listserv operation kinks aren't worked out, but the Division officers would continue to work closely with the Society's staffs to work through details.

President Allen reminded units and committees to submit their change-of-officer forms to Gail Goldberg (AFS Bethesda) and Division officers so that website contact information can remain current.

AFS Executive Director Austen reminded all units that the Society offers insurance. He also stated that the Society plans to hold semi-annual Chapter calls to discuss business. He mentioned it was a challenge to find current officer contact information and reiterated the importance of submitting change-of-officer forms. Gail Goldberg serves as the Society's point of contact for chapters for answering questions and updating contact information.

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made (Brian Murphy) and seconded (Dave Coughlan). Hearing unanimous support, President Allen adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 4:57 pm.

Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes**January 24, 2014****Charleston, South Carolina**

The 2014 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1730 hrs by President Mike Allen. Secretary/Treasurer Craig Bonds determined a quorum was present. President Allen recognized the current SDAFS officers; John Jackson, President-Elect; Dennis Riecke, Vice-President; Brian Murphy, immediate Past President; and Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer. President Allen recognized SDAFS Past Presidents: Reggie Harrell, Fred Heitman, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, and Steve McMullin. President Allen recognized special guest Olaf Weyl of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity.

President Allen announced a slight deviation from the agenda. Past-President Brian Murphy offered a special resolution for membership consideration, posthumously honoring recently-deceased Dave Willis (distinguished fisheries biologist and former Professor and Head of the Natural Resources Management Department; South Dakota State University) with the first ever Southern Division Amazing Career Award. Murphy gave a tribute, through words and pictures, to the life and professional contributions of Dave. Murphy read and moved to approve the resolution, and Fred Heitman seconded. Motion passed unanimously followed by a standing ovation.

Allen introduced AFS President Bob Hughes and Executive Director Doug Austen.

AFS President Bob Hughes's Remarks: President Hughes mentioned it was his first trip to a Southern Division meeting. He was impressed with the continuing education workshops and the level of Technical Committee activity. Hughes applauded the Southern Division for supplying both candidates for the Society's 2nd Vice President office.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen's Remarks: Executive Director Austen expressed his appreciation for the invitation to attend his first Southern Division meeting and for the resolution and award recognizing Dave Willis. Austen gave a brief history of his involvement in AFS. His goal is for AFS to serve as the "center of gravity" for fisheries issues in Washington D.C. He mentioned several actions which will help the Society move that way. One is the hiring of Tom Bigford (NOAA retiree and *Fisheries* habitat column contributor) as Policy Director. The Society officers recently held a Fisheries Leadership Dialogue with a broad spectrum of agency and NGO top leaders with a goal of using AFS as the vehicle for engagement on fisheries issues. Austen announced plans for a Policy Internship Program. A Co-Chief Science Editor for *Fisheries* will be added. The Society plans to ramp up the level of engagement with members through an enhanced social media presence. AFS plans to assist with convening a Global Inland Fisheries Conference to be held in Rome, Italy, in 2015. AFS will be publishing the conference proceedings. AFS hosts the World Fisheries Council and the next World Fisheries Congress convenes in South Korea in 2016. Austen reminded members that the next Society meeting will be held in Quebec City in August.

President Allen's Address: President Allen has invested considerable effort towards restoring functionality to the Division listserv. He reported on Gloria Schoenholtz's outstanding work to update and manage the Division website and assist Chapters with website enhancements and migration to WordPress platform. Her work has been funded through an approved Division budget line item. The Ad-Hoc Pollution Committee plans to revise the book on investigations and monetary values of fish and mussel kills. Allen will submit a request to Executive Director Austen to ask the Society to initiate the process of revising the book. The previous revisions (approximately 10 years ago) were contracted through Southwick Associates.

The Western Division Meeting will be held in Mazatlan, Mexico, this year. The Southern Division will support this meeting by providing up to \$1,500 in travel funding for President-Elect John Jackson to attend, as well as providing \$500 to the meeting's travel grant pool. President Allen served on the travel grant committee to select recipients. Two Southern Division members received travel grants. Allen reported the Puerto Rico Chapter is up and running, and advocated holding a future Southern Division meeting there.

Through his role as Division President, Allen observed opportunities and gained an appreciation for how AFS can be involved in influencing policy. Following a request from the Georgia Chapter, the Division facilitated an AFS response (from the Introduced Fish Section through President John Boreman) on the Invasive Species Screening Act bill. This comment letter is available for view on the Division website.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' Report: Minutes from the 2013 Nashville Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2013 SDAFS Newsletter and posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bonds made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded (Brad Ray) and the 2013 Business Meeting minutes were approved by vote. Bonds presented the 2013 financial statement, covering income and expenses for the year (note: the financial statement is a report and does not require a motion for approval). Bonds noted the Division 2012 IRS return was submitted prior to the May 15th reporting deadline. Bonds presented the 2014 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. He reported the Audit Committee completed their audit on 21 January 2014, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. Motion was made (Fred Heitman) and seconded (Dave Coughlan) to approve the 2014 budget. Motion passed.

Host Chapter Report: South Carolina Chapter President and Division General Meeting Chair Shane Boring welcomed members to Charleston. Boring noted registered attendees totaled approximately 550. He thanked the Planning Committee, including Marcel Reichert (Local Arrangements Chair), Tanya Darden and Cathy Marion (Finance Co-Chairs), Amy Dukes and Leo Lentsch (Fundraising Co-Chairs), Chris McDonough (Program Chair), and meeting sponsors. The host Chapter raised approximately \$40,000 to support the meeting.

President-Elect John Jackson's Chapter Activity Report: Highlights from the various state chapters shared five commonalities, including 1) exchange of information and fellowship facilitated through meetings (especially joint meetings), 2) recognition of members through awards, 3) communication among members (e.g. websites, social media, etc.), 4) support for students and their sub-units (e.g. scholarships, travel grants, awards, etc.), and 5) community connection and involvement. Jackson encouraged members to download the briefing book from the Division website and read about Chapter activities and accomplishments.

Vice President Dennis Riecke's Technical Committee Report: Six of the nine Technical Committees (TCs) held meetings in Charleston. Riecke was impressed by their ability to help colleagues, better understand fisheries, and contribute to the body of scientific knowledge. The Alligator Gar TC assisted the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative develop a habitat model for the species. The Catfish Management TC created a database containing all state regulations for recreational and commercial catfish fisheries and posted it on their website. The Small Impoundments TC published their book, *Small Impoundment Management in North America*, during the past year. The Warmwater Streams TC sponsored an Instream Flow workshop at the Charleston meeting. The Reservoir TC has been updating their habitat manual.

President Allen's Standing Committee Report: Allen recognized Dennis Riecke as chair of the Resolutions Committee. Riecke updated the membership on the status of the draft resolution on off-highway vehicle use in streams. The resolution originated from policy statements written by Texas (2002) and Louisiana (2013). The draft newsletter was posted on the Division website in mid-December. Chair Riecke received one comment. Our bylaws state resource resolutions must be published in the Division's newsletter prior to voting. Issues surrounding loss of our listserv functionality precluded publication and dissemination of the fall newsletter. Once listserv functionality is restored, the draft resolution will be published in the newsletter. Following a 30-day comment period, the resolution will be put to an electronic vote of the membership. If passed, members will need to decide whether the resolution should advance to the Society's Resolutions Committee for consideration.

Ballot Committee Chair, Vic DiCenzo, noted other committee members were Past-President Murphy and Brad Ray. Division elections were held electronically in 2013 using Survey Monkey. Eric Nagid and Dave Coughlan were candidates for Vice President and Kim Bonvechio and Nancy Brown-Peterson were candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. DiCenzo announced Dave Coughlan as incoming SDAFS Vice President and Kim Bonvechio as the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. President Allen noted that members will be receiving e-ballots this year containing three candidates, including Secretary-Treasurer.

Presentation of Awards: President Allen recognized Gene Wilde as the Awards Committee Chair and Tim Bonner, out-going Awards Committee Chair, for assisting. Neither Gene nor Tim was able to make the meeting. President-Elect Jackson announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Allen congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The runner-up 2013 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Kim Bonvechio (R. Eric Sawyers, Erin Leone and Steve Crawford, co-authors) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. First place was given to Wes Neal of Mississippi State University. Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Student-Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University.

The Best Poster Award from the 2013 SDAFS Meeting in Nashville went to Hilary Glenn (Dannielle Kulaw and James H. Cowan, Jr., co-authors) of Louisiana State University. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2013 SDAFS Meeting was given to William Pruitt (James T. Peterson and Cecil A. Jennings, co-authors) of the University of Georgia. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Tim O'Donnell

(Michael R. Denson and Tanya Darden, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

Brian Alford, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Augustin (Gus) Engman of North Carolina State University.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Patrick Snellings (Auburn University; not present) and Kristopher Stahr (Oklahoma State University).

Riecke presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the South Carolina Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Shane Boring, General Meeting Chair; Chris McDonough, Program Chair; Marcel Reichert, Local Arrangements Chair; Amy Dukes and Leo Lentsch, Fundraising Co-Chairs; and Tanya Darden and Cathy Marion, Finance Co-Chairs; for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2014 meeting. Riecke made a motion, and seconded by Lochmann, to pass the resolution. Motion carried.

Old Business: President Allen brought proposed bylaws changes (see 2013 EXCOM New Business minutes and 2013 Summer Newsletter) to the membership for vote. Proposal included: Change (Section VI; Executive Committee) from, "The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, and the President of each chapter within the Division" to "The Executive Committee of the Division shall consist of the four duly elected officers, the Immediate Past-President, a student representative elected by students, and the President of each chapter within the Division"; and change (Section X; Amendment of Bylaws) verbiage from, "...and published in the Division newsletter at least 30 days prior to consideration by the membership" to "...and provided to the membership at least 30 days prior for consideration by the membership". Motion to approve bylaws change was made (Brad Ray) and seconded (Reggie Harrell). President Allen called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Installation of 2014 Officers: Newly installed officers, Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer; Dave Coughlan, Vice President; Dennis Riecke, President-Elect; and John Jackson, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Mike Allen presented the Presidential gavel to John Jackson.

Newly Installed President Jackson's Remarks: After a brief reminiscence from their graduate school days, Jackson thanked Allen for his service and guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past-President's plaque and a bottle of 18-year-old bourbon. His plan of work in 2014 includes facilitating connections among the network of the Society, Division, Student Sub-units, Chapters, and Technical Committees, and providing the tools necessary to do their work. President Jackson closed by encouraging members to contact him with suggestions on how he can better facilitate connections among members.

New Business: None.

A motion to adjourn was made (Brad Ray) and seconded (Fred Heitman) and the meeting concluded at 1855 hrs.

2013 SDAFS Award Winners

Presentation of Awards: President Allen announced the following SDAFS Awards and congratulated recipients and presented awards:

Runner up for the 2013 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best paper award was Kimberly Bonvechio (Eric Sawyers, Erin Leone and Steve Crawford, co-authors) of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. Bonvechio received a plaque and a check for \$50 and her co-authors received certificates.

First place for the 2013 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best paper award went to Wesley Neal (Mississippi State University), who received a plaque and a check for \$100.

The Outstanding Student-Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University.

The Best Poster Award from the 2013 SDAFS Meeting in Little Rock went to Hilary Glenn (Dannielle Kulaw and James Cowan, Jr., coauthors) of the Louisiana State University. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2013 SDAFS Meeting was given to William Pruitt (James Peterson and Cecil Jennings, coauthors) of the University of Georgia.

The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Tim O'Donnell (Michael Denson and Tanya Darden, co-authors) of the University of Georgia. For each award, first authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Patrick Snelling Auburn University) and Chris Starr (Oklahoma State University).

Gus Engman (North Carolina State University) received the 2014 Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award, presented by the Warmwater Streams Committee.

SDAFS awards: call for nominations

The 2015 SDAFS Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for four Southern Division Awards.

Distinguished Service Award

Service is the foundation of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. The purpose of the Distinguished Service Award is to recognize outstanding contributions of time and energy for special projects or activities in service of the Southern Division.



Achievement Award

The purpose of the Outstanding Achievement Award is to recognize individuals for their noteworthy and long-standing contributions to fisheries, aquatic sciences, and the Division, thereby rewarding individuals for their contributions, enhancing visibility of the Division, and increasing the aspirations of the membership. It is our Division's highest honor.

Nominations are also being accepted for *Best Chapter* and *Outstanding Subunit*.

Nominations will be accepted until December 7, 2014. Letters in support of the nomination from other members are welcome. Awards criteria and past winners can be found on the SDAFS website. Submit nominations to the SDAFS Awards Committee Chair.

Gene Wilde
Department of Biological Sciences
Gene.wilde@ttu.edu
Mail Stop: MS3131
Lubbock, TX 79409

Chapter and Committee Updates



Black Bass Conservation Committee Southern Division American Fisheries Society

What is even more exciting than catching an 11-inch Bartrams Bass in the famous – infamous – Bull Sluice Rapids of the Chattooga River? How about the publication of ***Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation***; a book with 46 chapters that will inform the reader about the biology, ecology, and life history of endemic species of black bass, as well as conservation needs of these species and successful management actions. The book will be published late summer or early fall. Hard copy books will be available through AFS and electronic copies of book chapters can be purchased individually.



Jim Long (Oklahoma State University) sampled this Bartrams Bass at the Chattooga River with his fly rod and hand-tied Flash-Dancer streamer. There is absolutely no doubt that Jim is in an elite class!



Steve Sammons (Auburn University) displaying a Bartrams Bass angled from typical habitat found in the beautiful Chattooga River.

Our committee met during June near Mountain Rest, South Carolina, where we planned the final stages of book completion. Jean Leitner and Dan Rankin, South Carolina DNR, helped make arrangements for the committee to stay in cabins at Oconee State Park. They also organized sampling trips for Bartrams Bass at the Chattooga and Chauga Rivers from which 66 bass samples were collected and fin clipped for genetic analyses to evaluate the frequency of pure Bartrams Bass and hybrids. Ross Self, Chief of Fisheries, provided a very impressive historic account and field trip to the 12-Mile dam removal site.

We submitted a preproposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for continued funding of the National Black Bass Initiative (NBBI) that is currently focused on Guadalupe Bass, Shoal Bass, and Bartrams Bass.



Andrew Taylor (OK State) with a quality-sized Bartrams Bass from the Chauga River.

We also planned to increase the committee's outreach efforts to educate anglers and other stakeholders about black bass diversity and conservation. Andrew Taylor has done an excellent job interacting with anglers on the committee's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AFS.Black.Bass>, and we plan to get more committee members involved with these outreach efforts.



Preston Bean (Texas Parks and Wildlife) sampling Bartrams Bass habitat in the Chauga River.



The 35th annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (LA AFS) was held on May 19-30, 2014 on the Nicholls State University campus in Thibodaux, LA. There were 108 attendees and a full meeting schedule that included 21 oral presentations and 10 posters. Twelve (63%) of the presentations and posters were authored by students. New officers were installed. Melissa Kaintz and Chris Green completed their terms. Mike Kaller became President, and Steve Beck became Treasurer. Nine awards were presented to students based on their abstracts, presentations, and posters. Additionally, the EXCOM awarded Chapter awards to Dennis Riecke (Meeting Committee Special Service Award), Quenton Fontenot (President's Special Service Award), and Robert and Terry Romaine (Chapter Award for Achievement). We would again like to thank Dennis Riecke for attending our meeting as a representative of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.

The theme of the 2014 meeting was "Funding Fisheries: Focus on the Future". In lieu of a keynote speaker, the EXCOM invited fisheries professionals from universities, as well as, state and federal agencies to participate in a plenary panel discussion. A moderator was tasked with asking the panel members various questions related to future funding needs and challenges. The plenary panel was very well received and students and professionals found the audience interaction to be rewarding.

Student Awards

Abstract

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| First Place | Ryan Munnely, Louisiana State University; A coast wide survey of fish assemblages around small, shallow-water, oil and gas platforms throughout Louisiana's dynamic nearshore area. |
| Second Place | David Reeves, Louisiana State University; Nearshore hydrography on the Louisiana shelf |
| Third Place | Kelly Darnell, University of Texas - Austin; Plasticity in turtle grass (<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>) flower production as a response to pore-water nutrient availability. |

Poster

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| First Place | Kelly Darnell, University of Texas - Austin; Plasticity in turtle grass (<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>) flower production as a response to pore-water nutrient availability. |
| Second Place | Ashlee Minor, Nicholls State University; Forested freshwater wetland responses to secondarily treated municipal effluent discharge |
| Third Place | Jeff Liechty, Nicholls State University; Diet composition of Royal Tern and Sandwich Tern on Isles Denieres Barrier Islands Refuge |

Oral Presentation

First Place

Ryan Munnely, Louisiana State University; A coast wide survey of fish assemblages around small, shallow-water, oil and gas platforms throughout Louisiana's dynamic nearshore area.

Second Place

David Reeves, Louisiana State University; Nearshore hydrography on the Louisiana shelf

Third Place

Yue Liu, Louisiana State University; Motility activation of sperm from an endangered viviparous fish *Xenotoca eiseni*.

Instream Flow Committee

In 2013 the committee prepared and the Chapter approved a resolution on 'Off-Road Vehicle Use in Louisiana Streams'. Committee chair, Robby Maxwell, reported that the resolution was influential in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's 2014 ruling banning ATV, off-highway, and other vehicles from designated Wild and Scenic Streams and Rivers. Chapter members also provided field sampling and laboratory analyses to document the issue to assist decision-making. Committee's next project is to investigate rumored inter-basin water transfers from Louisiana to Texas.

Mississippi Chapter

The Mississippi Chapter held their annual meeting jointly with the Tennessee Chapter on March 18-20 at Pickwick Landing State Park near Counce, Tennessee. There were 40 oral presentations and 3 posters, and awards were presented for best student presentations by Mississippi Chapter members. Faith Lambert, University of Southern Mississippi (USM), won first place for her presentation "The secondary stress response of the Atlantic stingray to prolonged air exposure." Jeremy Higgs, USM, placed second; Jennifer Green, USM, placed third, and Mike Ciaramella, Mississippi State University (MSU), was given an honorable mention. The Mississippi Chapter is grateful for the continued support of the Mississippi branch of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) for providing financial awards to our student presentation winners.



Best student paper award winners at the Mississippi Chapter Meeting, March 18-20. From left to right: Stephen Brown, Past-President; Faith Lambert, first place; Jeremy Higgs, second place; Jennifer Green, third place; Peter Allen, President-Elect.

The Chapter created a new award this year, the Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes professionals at or near the end of their career who have demonstrated significant contributions and accomplishments relative to aquatic resources in Mississippi. Ron Garavelli, former Chief of Fisheries with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, became the first recipient of this prestigious award.



Figure. Ron Garavelli accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award from Nancy Brown-Peterson at the Mississippi Chapter Business Meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Darcie Graham were presented with Service Awards, and Kalyan Raj Kota was given a certificate of appreciation for his tireless efforts as webmaster.

Election and installation of 2014 officers was held, and the new officers are Wes Neal, President, Peter Allen, President-Elect, and Jennifer Green, Secretary-Treasurer. We thank our immediate Past-President, Stephen Brown, and outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Darcie Graham, for their service and enthusiasm.

The subunits of the Mississippi Chapter have had a busy spring. The USM student subunit played an active role in community outreach this past season, with members assisting with the 28th annual Gorenflo's Cobia tournament in May. Students also aided the Mississippi CCA with their annual banquet and will be assisting CCA in the near future with their FishFest: a fishing festival and tournament for local youths. The USM subunit was well represented at the joint Mississippi/Tennessee Chapter meeting, and seven members attended the conference and four members presented their research during the event. Fundraising for the subunit has flourished this year due to the hard work and effort put in by members.

The Chapter's other top-tier award, the C. A. Schultz Award, was presented to Todd Slack for his dedicated conservation efforts in Mississippi waters. A number of members were also recognized for their service and accomplishments. Wes Neal was recognized for receiving the John F. Dequaine Best Paper Award for his paper "Comparison of diploid and triploid largemouth bass growth and maturation in Puerto Rico" presented at the 2013 SEAFWA meeting, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to F. J. Eicke with CCA, and Hal Schramm received the Excellence in Public Outreach Award. Garry Lucas was recognized with the Meritorious Service Award for his 30 years of service to the Society. Outgoing President Stephen Brown and outgoing

The Mississippi State University (MSU) student subunit was well represented at both the state chapter meeting and the Southern Division meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Seven graduate student members presented at the Southern Division meeting and one undergraduate member attended using funding provided by the subunit. The subunit raised almost \$1,000 in donations received for the silent auction during the joint Mississippi - Tennessee Chapter meeting. In April, the subunit hosted the first annual Fish Dish competition. The competition was well received by the students and families of the Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, and in future years the competition will be expanded to include other departments on campus. Funds raised by the auction and Fish Dish will be used to provide undergraduate travel awards and fund workshops for subunit members. The subunit recently held officer election: new officers are: Daniel Sullivan and Melanie Parker, Co-Presidents; Jason Bies, Secretary; Cory Shoemaker, Treasurer.



Todd Slack accepts the C. A. Schultz Award for his dedicated service to conservation of Mississippi's aquatic resources. Presented by Nancy Brown-Peterson.

Oklahoma State University Student Subunit

The Oklahoma State University (OSU) AFS student subunit was very active over the past year. The OSU subunit was able to send both undergraduate and graduate students to several conferences, including the SEAFWA meeting in Oklahoma City, the Joint Meeting of the Oklahoma and Texas Chapters of AFS, as well as the Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association Conference. Subunit members were able to attend and present at several other conferences including the National AFS meeting in Little Rock and the Southern Division AFS meeting in Charleston. The subunit also assisted with the local Sierra Club Nature Camp, teaching kids how to fish and showing the importance of our aquatic resources. Members also assisted with the Plant and Soil Sciences Graduate Student Organization field day, showing families local fishes, teaching fish identification, and demonstrating the importance of clean watersheds to lakes and streams. The subunit also recently held an end of the year fish fry, complete with white bass (Oklahoma's state fish) and crawfish on the menu for the lucky attendees. Many thanks to all the members that made the 2013-2014 school year great!

2013-2014 OSU AFS Subunit Officers
 Shelby Parker- President
 Katylnn Gifford- Vice President
 Kristopher Stahr- Secretary/Treasurer

South Carolina Chapter

The South Carolina AFS Chapter has had an exciting first half of the year. The Chapter hosted and put on the 2014 SD Spring meeting in January at the Francis Marion Hotel in historic Charleston, SC. Most of the work and events from the previous year were all part of the meeting preparation and it was a great success. A summary of the events of the meeting is below.

Current membership in the Chapter stands at 90 registered members. The Chapter also elected a new President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer while the Presidency changed over to the previous President-Elect. The new officers of the South Carolina Chapter are:

- President: Chris McDonough, South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
- President-Elect: Joey Ballenger: South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
- Secretary/Treasurer: Tracey Smart: South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
- Past-President: Shane Boring, Kleinschmidt

Southern Division Meeting Summary

The Annual Spring Meeting was held January 23-26 at the Francis Marion Hotel in the center of historic Charleston, South Carolina. The meeting was very successful with 550 registered attendees which makes it one of the largest meetings the Southern Division has put on in recent years. There was an exciting program of meetings, workshops, symposia, and technical sessions as well as all the fun social events.

There were a total number of 200 presentations given during 12 Technical Sessions and 3 Symposia as well as 51 Poster presentations. There was a Tradeshow with 24 Sponsored Booths with the overall meeting garnering support from 49 sponsors.

The opening Plenary Session included presentations by Buck Sutter, Director for the Office of Habitat Conservation at NOAA Fisheries and Gene Gilliland, National Conservation Director for B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) as well as remarks from both AFS President Bob Hughes and AFS Executive Director Doug Austen.

All of the social events were well attended and included a Welcoming Social on Thursday night, the Student Poster Social and Tradeshow Social on Friday night (where mysteriously every available beer in the hotel appears to have been consumed, much to the consternation of the hotel service staff), and the Grand Social was held at the South Carolina Aquarium on Saturday night.

Six Technical Committees held meetings that included:

- Striped Bass
- Catfish Management
- Alligator Gar
- Reservoirs
- Warmwater Streams

There were 7 Workshops held that included:

- Catfish Ageing Techniques
- Design and Analysis of Tagging Studies used to Estimate Fishing and Natural Mortality
- Understanding and Maintaining Habitat Values of Offshore Shoals While Utilizing Sand Resources
- The Present and Future Collaboration in Acoustic Telemetry Research on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts
- Instream Flow Science to Support Warmwater Stream Management
- Fish Passage: Typical Design Criteria and Case Studies
- Applications of a Novel Genetic Approach, Sandwich Hybridization assay, for Detecting and Quantifying Planktonic Fish Eggs.

There were 3 Symposia held during the Technical Sessions:

- Atlantic and Gulf Coast Sturgeon Conservation
- Reef Fish
- Gaining a Better Understanding of Population Demographics through Tagging

The SC Chapter would like to thank all the sponsors, presenters, attendees, the organizing staff and all the volunteers without whom the meeting would not have been possible.

SDAFS Trout Committee

The Trout Committee's 2014 spring meeting was held during May 13-15 at Bennett Spring State Park in Missouri with Chair Matt Kulp presiding. Members including representatives from eight state and federal agencies discussed current regional coldwater fisheries management issues and activities (e.g., southern Appalachian brook trout genetics and the Southeast Monitoring Network). Each agency provided an update of recently-completed and ongoing projects during the annual roundtable discussion. Presentations were also given on current Brook Trout distribution in Tennessee, Missouri's Eleven Point River Rainbow Trout strain evaluation, comparison of historic and contemporary molecular methods to assess North Carolina's Brook Trout, Brook Trout restoration challenges in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and West Virginia's stream restoration efforts (Shaver's Fork video). Christy Graham (AR) was elected to replace Jeff Williams (AR) as Treasurer and John Damer (GA) was chosen as the new Chair-elect. Jim Habera (TN) will serve as Chair during 2014-2015.

Many thanks to those who attended, and special thanks to Tom Whelan and several others with the MO Department of Conservation, as well as the Bennett Spring State Park staff, for their work in organizing and conducting this excellent meeting! For more information about the SDAFS Trout Committee, including meeting minutes and a summary of its proceedings since 1964, visit <http://sdafs.org/trout/>.



Trout committee members attending the 2014 meeting at Bennett Spring State Park, MO (left to right): John Damer (GA), Christy Graham (AR), Spence Turner, Jim Habera—Chair-elect (TN), Jake Rash (NC), Mike Shingleton,(WV), Matt Kulp—Chair (NPS/GRSM), Tom Whelan (MO), Dave Dreves (KY), James Civiello (MO), and guest Mike Mitchell (MO). Other guests from MO (not pictured) were Bruce Drecktran and Craig Fuller.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Richard Standage Co-Recipient of the US Forest Service's Rise to the Future Award for Professional Excellence – Fish Management

Recently at a ceremony held in Washington DC. Richard Standage, USDA, Forest Service, Ouachita NF, was a co-recipient of the Professional Excellence – Fish Management Award, an Award the Forest Service gives under the national Rise to the Future awards program for Fisheries, Hydrology, Soil Science and Air Programs.



He was presented the award by Forest Service Chief Tidwell and was recognized for his excellence in fisheries and aquatic resource management with the Forest Service over his 35 year career. As the first fisheries biologist for the Sequoia National Forest (California), Richard authored the Interagency Environmental Assessment for the recovery of the threatened Little Kern Golden Trout.

He served on the George Washington National Forest (Virginia) where he was instrumental in funding groundbreaking acid rain research with partners and signing the first Cooperative Agreement in the nation with the Forest, the state of Virginia and Trout Unlimited for cooperation in aquatic habitat management. Serving the Ouachita NF (Arkansas and Oklahoma) since 1990, Richard has been a leading force in fish passage restoration and in research and restoration for a host of rare, Threatened and Endangered aquatic species such as the Leopard Darter, Dusky Darter, Ouachita Madtom and the Kiamichi Crayfish.

Richard is a member of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and has been a Certified Fisheries Professional since 1978.

C.W. Watson Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2014 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Destin, Florida, October 19-22, 2014. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. All Southeastern fish and wildlife conservationists and other interested persons are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should include complete information on the candidate's background; i.e., education, training, noteworthy accomplishments, and particularly, the achievement(s) for which the nomination is being made. The nomination should include, but not be limited to, a description of the accomplishment(s), application in the state and region concerned, time involved, and the amount of aid received from associates. Furnish as much information as possible to aid the committee in making the selection. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted each year.

NOMINATION FORMAT

I. Background Information

- A. Name
- B. Birthdate
- C. Education
- D. Employment History

II. Accomplishment(s)* and application of accomplishment(s) upon which the Award should be made

- A. Problem or opportunity with which nominee was involved.
- B. Action nominee took to solve problem or capitalize on opportunity.
- C. Results (accomplishments) of nominee's actions.

*The C.W. Watson Award may be given for accomplishing a single item or a series of different non-related items. But the award is given to a nominee who has contributed the most to any of the appropriate areas of fish and wildlife conservation. Emphasis is on contribution, not tenure. Those making nominations are requested to insure that they explain clearly what was accomplished and how it contributed.

Selection will be based on specific accomplishment(s) and other information included in the letter of nomination. Nominations should be sent to: **J. Wesley Neal**, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Box 9690, Mississippi State, MS 39762-9690; jneal@cfr.msstate.edu; 662-325-8363 as soon as possible but no later than August 15, 2013.

Recent publications in SDAFS

Bourtis, C.M., R. Francis-Floyd, E.A. Reyier, R.P. Yanong and L.J. Guilette, Jr. 2014. Development of a nonlethal health assessment for wild red drum using a health index. *Journal of Aquatic Animal Health* 29: 91-95.

Gibbs, W.K., J.E. Miller, J.K. Throneberry, S.B. Cook and M.A. Kulp. 2014. Summer habitat use and partitioning by two reintroduced rare madtom species. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 29: 243-258.

Hitt, N.P. and D.B. Chambers. 2014. Temporal changes in taxonomic and functional diversity of fish assemblages downstream from mountaintop mining. *Freshwater Science*. DOI: 10.1086/676997.

Matlock, G. The precautionary approach to non-native fisheries—the case of striped bass in Texas. *Marine Policy* 47: 94-98.