

Southern Division News



Southern Division
of the
American Fisheries
Society



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Candidate biographies for SD Vice President and Student Rep.		Mark your calendar for upcoming professional meetings!		Chapters, committees, and subunits tell us what they've been up to.	

The President's Message: What does the AFS mean to you?

Dennis Riecke, SDAFS President

It is hard for me to believe that by the time you read this, six months have passed since our very successful 2015 spring meeting in Savannah, Georgia. I am honored and pleased to serve as your SDAFS President. What does the AFS mean to you? What comes to mind when you think about your involvement with your professional society? How would you describe the AFS to a colleague? How would

you market or sell the AFS to them? Would you encourage them to participate and join if they were not already members? Do you value your membership? If so, what would you list as valuable membership benefits and activities? Have you been an active member or a passive member? Have you taken the opportunities to volunteer to help out on a project, or to serve as a chapter or



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

Questions/Comments:
Sasha S. Doss
SDAFS Newsletter Editor
doss@vt.edu

(President's Message Continued)



"AFS meetings and AFS contacts have always been very helpful to me at critical times in my career."

-Dennis Riecke

subunit officer, or to serve as a committee chairman or committee member? To put it simply, what do you get from the AFS and what do you give to the AFS? These questions lead me to conjure up two words—commitment and engagement. Are you committed *and* engaged with the SDAFS?

Here is my AFS history. As a student, my faculty advisor, Dr. Mark Konikoff, urged me to join the AFS. I asked him what the AFS was because I had never heard of it. He described it as a professional fisheries organization that held meetings, published *Fisheries* and some journals, and provided an opportunity to network with other fisheries folks. He said that joining

would be valuable to me as student and throughout my career. He said student dues were half-priced and a bargain. He even had a form to sign me up and attest that I was a student. I decided to join and soon got my first copy of *Fisheries*. A few months later, I attended a Louisiana Chapter AFS meeting. In graduate school, I attended my first AFS Annual meeting at Cornell University. While there, I picked up a brochure about the Kansas Fish and Game Commission. That brochure led me to land my first full-time fisheries job. Later in my career, I needed to find a firm to design a piece of sampling gear to put down a conduit shaft where water was being released from the bottom of a flood control reservoir. A call to an officer for the AFS Bioengineering Section provided some advice to seek out engineering firms in the Northwest. That was excellent advice, and I found a firm to design the sampling gear I needed. The project moved forward and was a success principally due to that specialized gear. So, AFS meetings and AFS contacts have always been very helpful to me at critical times in my career. While a member of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee, someone asked me to serve as Secretary-Treasurer of that committee. I got elected and

did that for 5 years. Then SDAFS Past President Steve Filipek asked me to chair the Resolutions Committee. I did that for 10 years because I believed that we should be fisheries advocates. The fact that I wrote a couple of resolutions got the attention of the SDAFS officers, and SDAFS Past President Steve Lochmann asked me to run for SDAFS Vice-President. So, I believe that I have been committed and engaged with the SDAFS. In a sense, I wanted to pay something back for the benefits I have received.

Division activities

In my President's comments at the 2015 spring meeting, I stated that the SDAFS officers would finish revising our Procedures Manual and update our website. Work is progressing on both of these activities. Your officers have attended all the chapter meetings except for Oklahoma and Puerto Rico. We are going to create a Unit Resource page on our SDAFS website to provide guidance on procedures for forming chapters and student submits, for bylaw revisions, to report change of officers, investment opportunities, conference calling, and Survey Monkey.

(President's Message Continued)

Chapter and Subunit Activities

In Savannah, I asked each committee, chapter and student subunit to revise your website and do one new project for a fishery. That project could be to assist with a kids' fishing rodeo, clean up a stream section, improve a fishery's habitat, or make a donation to an organization that will benefit fisheries. Some chapters and committees have updated their websites, but some still have some outdated information on them. So, please update your website if needed to present a positive image of our professional organization.

Member Activities

In Savannah, I asked each member to promote the AFS, get certified, recruit a new member, and commit and engage with the AFS. So, how are you doing? I hope you will decide to be more engaged with the AFS in the future and that you will decide—sometime in your career—you will commit to volunteer to serve the AFS in some way. I had an AFS member tell me recently that, "The AFS has been very good to me, and I want to give back to it." It is my hope that more members will feel the same. None of the AFS activities we benefit would be possible without some of us volunteering a small bit of our time to work on them.

Technical Committees

Here is a simple way to get more involved. **Join a technical committee.** Consult the list at <http://sdafs.org/committees/> and contact the committee chairman. President-Elect Dave Coughlan pointed out to me that perhaps there is a misconception—particularly among students—that committee membership is by invitation only, or that you have to be appointed by a state fisheries director, or asked to join a committee. Untrue. **Membership in our technical committees is open to anyone.** All you need to do to join is contact the committee chair and express interest in joining.

Thank You Volunteers

Because of the many Georgia Chapter AFS members working together as a team to tackle thousands of planning details, our 2015 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Savannah, GA was a huge success. We had the largest turnout ever as 674 fisheries folks attended. There were four symposia, seven workshops, 258 oral presentations in 14 technical sessions, 66 posters, and more than 20 trade show vendors. On behalf of the SDAFS officers, I want to express our thanks to General Meeting Chair Joey Slaughter; General

Meeting Co-Chair Patrick O'Rourke; Program Chair Steve Sammons; Program Co-Chair Cecil Jennings; Local Arrangements Co-Chairs Joel Fleming and Chris Harper; Registration and Financial Chair Rebecca Brown; Registration Co-Chair, Webmaster, and Digital Media Chair Nicole Rankin; A/V and Technology Chair Chris Kalinowsky; Fundraising Co-Chair Greg Grimes, Marketing/Social Media Chairman Steven Patrick; Poster Session Chairman Bryant Bowen; Workshop Chairman Tim Bonvechio; Symposia Chairman John Kilpatrick; Student Affairs Chairpersons Brad Ray, Brian Irwin, and Cynthia Williams.

Thank you to Brad Ray who served as Student Affairs Chairman for two years and to Nicole Rankin for stepping up to replace Brad. Thank you to Brandon Peoples who served as our newsletter editor for two years and who is now responsible for sending you all those informative e-mails over the listserv. Thanks to Gene Wilde who volunteered to be our new Resolutions Committee Chairman. Thanks to Zach Martin who—as our new Webmaster—has been very busy updating the information on our website. Thanks to Sasha Doss who is serving as our newsletter editor.

(President's Message Continued)

Alabama Chapter Reactivated

Thanks to the efforts of several AFS members, the Alabama Chapter has been reformed and reactivated. Special thanks to their new officers President: Steve Rider, President-Elect: Mark Meade, Secretary: Elise Irwin, Treasurer: Chris McKee. They are currently working on revising their Bylaws and planning to meet with the Georgia Chapter in January 2016.



Yours truly and VDGIF biologist Joe Williams work up a muskellunge from the New River, VA. Photo Credits to the Roanoke Times.

Note from the Editor

Sasha Doss

They had been sitting there for maybe 40 minutes waiting for us to catch a fish. A writer and a photographer from the Roanoke Times had ventured into the field with us in hopes of doing a write-up on what exactly it is we do. It hadn't occurred to me that we might not catch a fish that day. It's rare we have a day like that, but they do happen.



Muskie No. 35478 out of the live well.

We picked up a catfish along the way in case we didn't come across a Muskie. In about the last ten feet or so, a Muskie lurched out of the water, and I did my best to net it—meaning I made a lot of weird noises and grabs before ungracefully pulling the fish out of the water. After securing the fish in the live well, we motored over to where they were waiting.

Joe Williams and I walked them through our normal routine: measure, weigh, pump, tag. After over a year of pumping Muskies stomachs, we've got a pretty good system in place. They asked questions about our sampling, our results, and what we expected to find when it was all over.

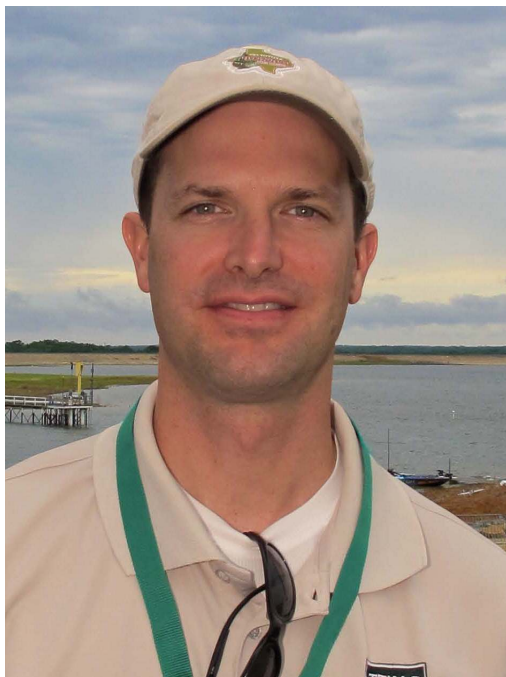
A week later the story came out in the paper, and we got lots of feedback on the project. Some of

it was harsh, but it was all incredibly helpful. All sorts of explanations for the trends we saw were proposed, and a lot of local knowledge we might not have otherwise learned was shared.

As a scientist, it can be hard sometimes to put your work in the hands of someone else, to have someone try and explain your project, especially to a nonscientific audience. But it is of the utmost importance to have the public be involved in your work. Fisheries are managed for people. Without them, our jobs are less meaningful, and you never know what pieces of wisdom they might bestow on you. (For instance, I recently learned about a really good burrito in downtown Blacksburg.) So the next time someone asks you to share a little about your work, I ask you to keep an open mind and let the public provide some less o-fish-al advice.

Candidate Biographies

Vice President



Craig Bonds for SDAFS Vice President



Joey Slaughter for SDAFS Vice President

Craig Bonds (pictured top) is the Inland Fisheries Division Director for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, serving his agency in various positions for over 16 years. 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.

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 Secretary/Treasurer (2013-2015) and Ballot Committee Chair (2006-2008). 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.

Joey Slaughter (pictured bottom) is a Certified Fisheries Professional through AFS and a Certified Ecologist through the Ecological Society of America. He has Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Auburn University in fish ecology and management, and he currently serves as the Supervisor for the Biology and Construction Projects Permitting group at Georgia Power Company. Prior to his time at Georgia Power, Joey was a fisheries biologist with Georgia DNR in the Fisheries Section of the Wildlife Resources Division, working with both the statewide stream monitoring and regional sportfish management programs. Prior to his time with Georgia DNR, Joey also held positions in state and federal government, academia, and consulting. Joey is actively

(Candidate Biographies Continued)

involved conservation leadership positions in Georgia and the Southeast serving on Georgia DNR Coastal Resources Division's Coastal Advisory Council as the current vice-chair, as a steering committee member for the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership, as a collaborator for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Native Black Bass Keystone Initiative, as a board member for The Environmental Resources Network, Inc., and as a member of the Kennesaw State University MSIB Advisory Board.

Joey has been very active in AFS throughout his career serving in various leadership roles at the Chapter and Division levels. Joey is a past President of both the Auburn University and the Georgia Chapters. He served as Chair of the Environmental Concerns Committee for the Arizona-New Mexico Chapter. He is a founding member of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society's Black Bass Conservation Committee, and he led the team that hosted the 2015 SDAFS meeting in Savannah this past January. Joey is also a member of the Fisheries Management and Education Sections of AFS and the Southern Division Reservoir Committee.

Student Representative

Andrew Taylor (pictured bottom) is a PhD student in fisheries and aquatic ecology at Oklahoma State University (OSU). He earned his BSFR and MS degrees in fisheries at the University of Georgia (UGA), and during that time he held several jobs sampling endangered



Andrew Taylor for SDAFS Student Representative

sturgeon species and surveying stream fish communities. More recently, he served as an assistant hatchery manager with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. His dissertation

research is addressing the influences of fragmentation on the distribution, conservation genetics, and population dynamics of fluvial-specialist *Micropterus* species.

Andrew has been active in AFS since his freshman year in 2005. He served as Vice President of the UGA Student Subunit in 2012. As President of the OSU Student Subunit from 2014-2015, he implemented a scholarship for undergraduate fisheries students at OSU. As a member of the SDAFS Black Bass Conservation Committee, he served as a reviewer for their recent symposium book. He also acts as webmaster for their [Facebook page](#) ("Like" us!), and he creates online dialogue about black bass conservation issues.

Andrew has benefited immensely from attending and presenting research at SDAFS meetings, and he is honored to have been nominated to serve as the Student Representative in the SDAFS EXCOM. If elected, Andrew looks forward to diligently serving and representing the interests of SDAFS student members.

(Candidate Biographies Continued)

Dan Walker (pictured at right) is a Ph.D. student in Natural Resources at the University of Tennessee. He received his B.S. in Ecology and Environmental Biology from Appalachian State University and his M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee.

Dan's research projects have ranged from describing introduced Flathead Catfish population characteristics on the coastal plain of eastern North Carolina to modeling habitat partitioning among darters in upland streams of Tennessee. His current research is assessing the quality and quantity of habitat available across spatial scales for the reintroduced Lake Sturgeon in the Tennessee River. His research is driven to leverage new and emerging analytical techniques to provide insights regarding habitat quality for and utilization by the Lake Sturgeon in this complex, large-river ecosystem.

Dan has been a member of AFS since 2010, and has attended both Tennessee State Chapter and Southern Division meetings, where he has contributed presentations regarding several fish habitat projects. He is honored to run for student representative to the Executive Committee and looks



Dan Walker for SDAFS Student Representative

forward to contributing a student's perspective and working for students' interests.

Keep a look out on the
Listserv for information
on voting for your
favorite candidates!



Meeting Announcements

August 16-20, 2015	AFS Annual Meeting
November 1-4, 2015	SEAFWA
July 12-15, 2015	Aquatic Plant Management Society
October 19-22, 2015	North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish
February 17-21, 2016	SDAFS Annual Meeting
March 13-55, 2016	International Muskellunge Symposium
May 23-27, 2016	World Fisheries Congress



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

PORTLAND, OREGON

145TH ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 16-20, 2015

The Oregon Chapter and Western Division of the American Fisheries Society cordially invite you to attend the 145th Annual Meeting to be convened in Portland from August 16th to the 20th, 2015. A diverse program, unconstrained by a single theme, will allow you to learn how freshwater and marine resources are managed, conserved, and restored globally.

The City of Portland offers unique experiences and endless activities for conference attendees to enjoy in a relaxed atmosphere. From wine bars in historic buildings to art galleries housed in modern buildings,

Portland is repeatedly ranked as one of the best walking cities in the United States. It is this walkability that will allow you to easily visit the countless restaurants, food carts, microbreweries, distilleries, and coffee shops that have led to Portland being recognized for its outstanding culinary and beverage scene. Portland and the surrounding Pacific Coast-Wine Country-Cascades-Columbia River Gorge landscapes provide endless opportunities for sightseeing, outdoor adventure, and fishing. The City of Portland and surrounding areas have something for everyone to enjoy in August 2015!

Save the Date

2015

*For the Southeastern Association of Fish and
Wildlife Agencies 69th Annual Conference.*

November 1-4, 2015

*Renaissance Asheville Hotel
Asheville, North Carolina*

seafwa.org • ncwildlife.org



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(Upcoming Meetings Continued)

2016 Southern Division Spring Meeting

February 17-21, 2016
Wheeling, WV

The West Virginia Chapter would like to invite you to attend the 2016 SDAFS Spring meeting at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center February 17-21, 2016 in Wheeling, WV. More information on this Resort and Conference Center can be found at www.Oglebay-resort.com.

The meeting's theme is "Sharing the Water Resources". For more information, visit the meeting website at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2016>. Workshops, symposia, committee meetings, business meetings, and social events will be included in the meeting. For specialized information about the meeting visit the website at <http://sdafs.org/wvafs/meetings/2016-annual-southern-division-meeting/>

For more information about the 2016 SDAFS meeting contact General Chair Pat Mazik at pmazik@wvu.edu or call 304/293-4943

69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

November 1-4, 2015
Asheville, NC

Make plans now to join us for the **69th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies** hosted by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission November 1-4, 2015, in Asheville, NC. The theme for the 2015 SEAFWA conference is **Conserving Large Landscapes**; conference details can be viewed at: <http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2015/>.

Abstracts for non-peer-reviewed posters and oral presentations for Education/Outreach, IT/Licensing, Law Enforcement, and Legal disciplines are highly encouraged for submission in addition to the Fisheries and Wildlife technical sessions. The deadline for submitting abstracts for general oral presentations and posters is **June 30, 2015**.

Several exciting symposia are planned in the following areas:

Human Dimensions: This symposium offers insights into the

ways human dimensions research can inform management on how to adapt to these social pressures. It will highlight examples of human dimensions research applied to management decisions and facilitate increased interaction among human dimensions researchers and specialists in SEAFWA member states and other conservation related organizations.

Large Landscapes and Biodiversity Conservation in the South:

Speakers address US Forest Service research studies related to ecosystems that are especially vulnerable to broad scale changes and implications for fish and wildlife that depend on them.

Identifying state frameworks for large-scale conservation of at-risk species in the Southeast:

The objective of this panel is to seed a broader conversation about the emerging and evolving frameworks that states might employ in the Southeast to achieve large-landscape and species conservation objectives. Speakers on the panel will provide insight into regional and national trends, review the multiple factors that have influenced the design and uptake of different conservation approaches in the past, and identify barriers and opportunities for implementation of new conservation frameworks.

(Upcoming Meetings Continued)

Landscape-Scale Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Local Government Land Use Planning:

This symposium will provide case studies and lessons learned to wildlife agencies and professionals so that they may assess the effectiveness of investing in wildlife habitat conservation through local land use planning.

Building a Fish Passage Community of Practice through Case Studies and Lessons Learned:

This symposium aims to help develop a fish passage community of practice throughout the Southeast by highlighting successful dam removal projects, identify lessons learned and recommend key factors to minimize the intimidation often encountered around dam removal projects.

Southeast Conservation

Adaptation Strategy: This symposium will present recent progress and identify important next steps for key elements of this conservation adaptation strategy, 1) network of landscapes and seascapes, 2) conservation collaborations, and 3) landscape change information.

Please contact Christian Waters, SEAFWA 2015 Program Co-chair, if you have any questions about general oral presentations or

posters. Christian can be contacted by telephone at (919) 707-0223 or by email at christian.waters@ncwildlife.org.

The mountains of western North Carolina will be beautiful this time of year. Please plan to make extra time before or after the conference to enjoy Asheville and the diverse attractions in the surrounding area. We look forward to seeing you in Asheville!

3rd International Muskellunge Symposium

**March 13-15, 2016
Minnetonka, MN**

Sponsored by MUSKIES, INC. and the Esocid Technical Committee, North Central Division - AFS

Plan now to attend and present at the 3rd International Muskellunge Symposium, to be held March 13 – March 15, 2016, in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

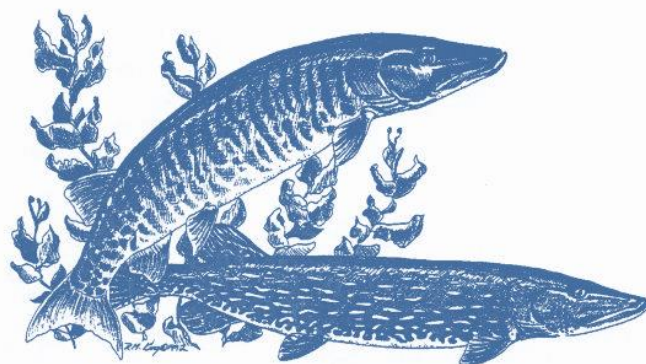
Muskellunge researchers, resource managers, and anglers from across North America will gather for three days of technical presentations,

poster sessions, panel discussions, and great socials! **This symposium will also commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Muskies, Inc.**

Venue: The presentations and socials will be held at the Sheridan Minneapolis West, Minnetonka, MN. A block of rooms will be reserved at the Sheridan for a special symposium rate. Early registration for the meeting and lodging is encouraged and will run approximately **October 1 – November 15, 2015**. Registration will include all breaks and socials; there will be a reduced fee for presenters and students.

Arrangements: Please check Muskiesinc.org for questions regarding meeting arrangements. **Submit Abstracts for Presentations and Posters** to the program Technical Committee, c/o:

Dr. Derek Crane, Lake Superior State University:
dcrane1@lssu.edu





7th World Fisheries Congress

Planning for the 7th World Fisheries Congress is underway. Mark your calendar to attend the meeting from May 23rd to the 27th, in 2016. The meeting will be held at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (Bexco).

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the World Fisheries Congress, which will be held in Busan, Korea in 2016. World Fisheries Congress has been hosted by the World Council of Fisheries Societies since 1991. The 1st World Fisheries Congress was held in Athens, Greece in 1991, followed by Brisbane, Australia in 1996, Beijing, China in 2000, Vancouver, Canada in 2004, Yokohama, Japan in 2008 and Scotland, England in 2012. The city of Busan in Korea is going to host 7th World Fisheries Congress under the theme "Challenge to Sustainable Fisheries and Safe Seafoods" from May 23th to 27th in 2016.

Korea is surrounded by the sea. Thus fishing industry has been one

of traditional industries with a long history. Korea has a well-established infrastructure in fishery, aquaculture, and fishery related industries, including training programs in universities. In particular, Busan is an ocean city and the second largest city in Korea. Thus, Busan is traditionally famous for marine fisheries in Korea. Busan is making great efforts to develop industry, science and academy related in marine fisheries. Busan will provide an excellent venue for knowledge exchanges and productive discussions of your most outstanding works with world-class scientists in fisheries.

Busan is proud of wonderful sceneries, cultural heritages, great fish markets, and fishing towns in

the vicinities. Busan is also famous as top 4th convention city in Asia and 9th one in the world (UIA, 2013) so that Busan is convenient for you to travel around with its well-established tourism infrastructure.

I hope you join the 7th World Fisheries Congress in 2016 and I look forward to seeing you in Busan, Korea.

Taek Jeong NAM, PhD
Chair, the organizational committee for 2016 World Fisheries Congress

(Upcoming Meetings Continued)

Annual Meeting of North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society

October 19-22
Oshkosh, WI

North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Society (NASPS) invites you to register and attend their upcoming annual meeting from October 19-22 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin! The meeting will begin with continuing education workshops followed by two and a half days of contributed sessions and forum discussions. Room blocks have been reserved and most meals, including a society banquet, are included in registration costs.



For detailed descriptions of workshops and information regarding abstract submission and registration deadlines, please visit <http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org/conferences/north-american-conference-announcements.aspx>

Aquatic Plant Management Society 55th Annual Meeting

July 12-15, 2015
Myrtle Beach, SC

Our room block at the Hilton is over 75% full. The time is now to make your reservations for the 55th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society to be held July 12-15, 2015 at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. This year's meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society (SCAPMS). Of special note this year other than the BEACH, are a duck race and golf tournament with proceeds going to the APMS and SCAPMS Scholarship Funds. Hotel reservations can be made online at: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/M/MYRBHHH-AQU-20150708/index.jhtml>

or by calling the Hilton directly at (843) 449-5000. When making your reservations by phone, be sure to mention that you are part of the Aquatic Plant Management Society. The cutoff date for reservations at the special group rate is June 19, 2015. Our special

APMS guest room rate is \$164.00 for single and double occupancy per night plus applicable tax. The meeting registration fees are \$275.00 for a delegate and \$130.00 for a guest (spouse, partner, child over 12 years of age) if received by June 22, 2014. After this date, registration fees at the door will be \$330.00 for a delegate and \$155.00 for a guest. This is guaranteed to be an extraordinary meeting, so plan to attend and bring the family! Please help us in planning for the 55th Annual Meeting by submitting the Meeting Registration Form on the APMS website by June 19, 2015.



Southern Division Meeting Minutes

EXCOM Meeting: January 29th, 2015, Savannah, GA

President John Jackson called the EXCOM to order at 1533 hrs. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds announced a quorum was present. President Jackson mentioned that the EXCOM consists of officers and Chapter Presidents (within the Division), as well as the recent addition of a student representative (resulting from a recent bylaws change). President Jackson mentioned that Brandon Peoples would be installed (as a result of being elected by students) as student representative on the EXCOM at the business meeting the following day. President Jackson called roll and no proxies were identified. Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, John Jackson; Past-President, Mike Allen; President-Elect, Dennis Riecke; Vice-President, Dave Coughlan; and Secretary-Treasurer, Craig Bonds). President Jackson acknowledged special AFS guests, including 2nd Vice President (and Division Past President), Steve McMullin, and Western Division President-Elect, Jim Bowker. AFS President Donna Parrish was announced as expected to attend, but was absent at the beginning of the meeting.

SDAFS President Report

President Jackson stated his report was covered in the briefing book and will also be covered in the business meeting. President Jackson informed Chapter Presidents that Division officers would be sending representatives to Chapter meetings. He stated one of the main tasks officers initiated during the year was a complete revision of the Division procedures. President Jackson will ask several past presidents (e.g. Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, and Cecil Jennings) to review. Once revised draft is completed, the entire EXCOM will have a chance to review and approve. The goal is to complete by next year's meeting. President Jackson mentioned Division Webmaster role passed from Gloria Schoenholtz to Zack Martin. Newsletter editor passed from Brandon Peoples to Sasha Doss. The Division will now pay Virginia Tech Chapter \$1,000 to perform both tasks. Jessica Baumann has taken over podcasting duties.

SDAFS Officer Reports

President-Elect Dennis Riecke stepped out to locate AFS President, Donna Parrish. President Jackson stated he would proceed down the agenda to the Vice-President report.

Vice-President Dave Coughlan reviewed the Technical Committees (TCs) portion of the procedures manual during the year. Coughlan concentrated on content to make sure all TCs format was consistent in listing their purpose, goals, membership, officer responsibilities, and quorum determination. He also reviewed TC websites and recommended appropriate information updates.

Past-President Mike Allen fulfilled his role as Chair of the Nominating and Ballot Committees. Mike will report the results at the Business meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2014 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2014 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted on the SDAFS

(EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

website. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Chris McDonough), and the 2014 EXCOM minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Bonds reported the 2013 Division tax return was submitted prior to the deadline. The 2014 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2014 with \$15,478.92 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Charleston Meeting (\$4,596.95) and the AFS dues rebate (\$6,656.00). The Division received \$181 from the Society for book sale rebates, which was dispersed to appropriate TCs. The Division's checking account received the balance (\$9,533.98) from the temporary closing of the Catfish Management TC account. Bonds discussed the challenges associated with opening a new non-profit bank account, and recommended transferring existing accounts rather than closing and re-opening accounts with officer churn. The Catfish Management TC will move their money back into their own account once issues are resolved with opening a new account. Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. The SDAFS provided financial support to the SDAFS Student Affairs Committee (\$2,771); the AFS Equal Opportunity Section (\$500); the Instream Flow Council meeting (\$500); the Southeastern Fisheries Council meeting (\$500); and the SEAFWA conference (\$1,000 to support plenary speaker travel). Various other expenses (e.g., awards, plaques, internet service, conference calls, postage, SDAFS expenses at the Charleston Meeting, officer travel, podcasting coordinator travel, etc.) were expensed as received. Total assets in the Southern Division's checking account as of 31 December 2014 were \$23,299.91 and \$6,000 of this is set aside in a Strategic Reserve Fund. Western Division President-Elect, Jim Bowker, described how his division invests a portion of their annual income into an investment account (with the same person who manages the Society's account) and recommended that the Southern Division consider investing at least the strategic reserve fund into an income-generating fund. Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances are in agreement. An audit of the 2014 financial information was completed 8 January 2015 by the SD Audit Committee and reported to President Jackson. Bonds made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report, which was seconded (Patrick O'Rouke). Motion passed.

The Proposed 2015 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Finances for 2015 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2015 while still leaving enough cash for early 2016 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2016 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Savannah Meeting. Projected income in 2015 is \$19,968.43, and expenses are projected at \$17,400.00 for an end-of-year balance of \$2,568.43. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. A motion was made (Bonds) and seconded (Dave Coughlan) to approve the 2015 budget. After no further discussion, the proposed 2015 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

President-Elect Dennis Riecke attended the joint MS/TN and the LA Chapter meetings, assisted in planning the past-presidents' lunch at the Division meeting, and sent out listserv messages.

(EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

Reports from Committees with Action Items

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke, notified the EXCOM that a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2015 Meeting in Savannah was drafted. Past-President Allen moved to take the resolution to the business meeting to be presented to members. Vice President Coughlan seconded. No discussion followed and the motion passed. Chair Riecke updated the EXCOM on the status of the resolution on off-highway vehicle use in stream beds (a history of this resolution's development is contained within the 2014 EXCOM meeting minutes). The revised resolution was published for a second comment period on the Division website. Mike Kaller moved to approve the resolution to be presented to membership at the business meeting. Motion was seconded by Dave Coughlan and discussed. Wes Neal asked whether a resolution was strong enough or would a position statement be more appropriate. President Jackson stated membership could vote to elevate to the Society to consider. Riecke stated the Society has multiple forms of advocacy and could decide on an appropriate form of response. Motion was put to vote and passed unanimously.

Chapter Reports

Georgia (Host Chapter) - Patrick O'Rourke welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reported the pre-registration number of 625 broke the Division meeting record and more are expected to register as walk-ins. Patrick covered several meeting and housekeeping announcements. He also described the new meeting mobile device app, how it can benefit attendees, and the contract software company that developed it. The rest of Georgia's report stands as written

Arkansas – Report stands as written. Ben Batten noted the Chapter is preparing for its 28th annual meeting where Mike Allen will teach a workshop on population dynamics using Excel and members will be treated to a special symposium on supplemental stocking. He also noted the Chapter added its sixth student subunit during the previous year.

Auburn University – Report stands as written. Jessica Quintana noted the Chapter is mainly run by students. Members have been successful raising funds and have established the first student scholarship.

Florida – Report stands as written. Mike Allen noted the Chapter has been planning to host the 2017 AFS meeting in Tampa.

Kentucky – No report.

Louisiana – Report stands as written. Mike Kaller noted Dennis Riecke won an award at the previous Chapter meeting and appreciates his involvement. Mike explained the Chapter's rationale for moving their annual meeting to May (to avoid Mardi Gras).

(EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

Mississippi - Report stands as written.

North Carolina - Report stands as written. Brena Jones noted the Chapter has been updating their procedures manual. She noted a new Communications Committee was formed to incorporate webmaster, newsletter, and social media roles into one team. Chapter has taken advantage of the Society's offer to host subunit webpages on their WordPress platform at no charge. Sarah Gilbert-Fox (AFS) has been very helpful in the website revamping and migration processes. Brena also noted the Chapter's continuing education workshop topic at their upcoming annual meeting will cover crayfish identification.

Oklahoma – Not Present. Report stands as written.

Potomac – Not present. Report stands as written.

Puerto Rico - Miguel Garcia noted the Chapter held its first meeting. Their webpage is up and running, containing several recent updates. He expressed the desire of his Chapter to host a future Division meeting.

South Carolina – Report stands as written. Chris McDonough noted their Chapter's annual meeting will be coming up in March. A workshop on population stock assessment will be held.

Tennessee – Report stands as written. Travis Scott noted the Chapter will be investing some funds with the Society's investment account.

Texas - Report stands as written.

Tidewater – Report stands as written. Jessica Thompson noted the Chapter is revising their bylaws to shed inactive student subunits. She also noted they're redoing their email listserv. Chris McDonough (SC) noted complexities involved with an inactive Clemson student subunit and dealing with derelict bank accounts. Vice President Coughlan mentioned there should be a dissolution clause in the bylaws.

Virginia – Not present. Report stands as written.

Virginia Tech – Report stands as written. AFS 2nd Vice President Steve McMullin noted that the Virginia, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia chapters would be holding a joint meeting in Blacksburg.

West Virginia – Not Present. Report stands as written.

Technical Committee Reports

President Jackson noted no technical committee chairs were present, but extended the offer for anyone serving on a technical committee to provide an update. Wes Porak (incoming Division VP and Black Bass Ad Hoc Committee member) noted the book from the Black Bass Ad Hoc Committee's special symposium will be coming out in the next couple of months.

(EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

Other Old Business

President Jackson reminded members to be careful using photos derived from the internet in unit websites and newsletters. He described the recent incident involving the Division using a copyrighted digital photo in a newsletter meeting announcement header. The Division was forced to remove the photo, negotiate a settlement, and pay a penalty. Jackson recommended that units not use digital photos in their published media unless the photo's source is known.

President Jackson noted AFS Executive Director, Doug Austen, has been conducting periodic conference calls with chapter presidents. He encouraged chapters to make sure their officer contact information is current and to participate in the conference calls.

New Business

Past President Mike Allen brought up the issues related to the timing of the election of the Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee. Our Division election occurs during the summer, often during or after the AFS Nominating Committee is active. The Society's committee typically contacts our representative from the previous year, as our new representative is not typically elected or installed by the time he/she is needed to serve. Mike proposed two changes in the form of a motion. He moved that the Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee start service at the Division meeting following the Division election (at the moment officers change) and to change the service term duration from one to two years (in synch with Secretary-Treasurer term). Mike noted that this would be a procedural issue and not a bylaws change. The EXCOM could approve and the change could be presented as an informational item to the members at tomorrow's business meeting. Motion was seconded (Vice President Dave Coughlan). Mike noted that the incoming Division Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, Kyle Hartman, is willing to serve two years should the motion pass. Mike further clarified that Kyle would assume his role at tomorrow's business meeting and then serve for two years. No further discussion ensued. Motion passed unanimously. Mike noted that the change needed to be included in the procedures manual revisions.

Past President Allen mentioned that Noreen Clough, former B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, USFWS Regional Director, and long-time supporter of warmwater fisheries conservation (especially black basses), passed away recently. In her memory, the Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee (BBCAHC) created a scholarship for female students in the conservation field. Scholarship parameters are being developed. Dave Coughlan inquired when the BBCAHC would graduate to a TC status. Wes Porak noted the BBCAHC is in transition and part of the National Black Bass Initiative started with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding through the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP). Wes noted the committee is considering transitioning to be housed underneath SARP's umbrella and out from within the Southern Division AFS. Wes noted the committee would like to avoid overlap with the Warmwater Streams TC. President Jackson asked Wes Porak if the ad hoc committee would like the incoming president to extend the ad hoc committee appointment another year. Wes responded in the affirmative.

(EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

President Jackson mentioned that the previously disbanded Pollution Committee has recently been reinstated in an ad hoc status. Incoming President, Dennis Riecke, will reappoint them as an ad hoc committee.

Western Division President-Elect, Jim Bowker, provided an update on the AFS 2015 annual meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon. The planning team received 112 symposium proposals and selected 104 to include. They expect approximately 3,500 attendees and up to 40 concurrent technical sessions. Presentations will be podcasted and presenters will be signing copyright waivers.

Jim Bowker also updated the EXCOM on the Society's Emerging Leader Mentorship Program. Society leaders would like to see one good applicant per Division each year. Selected candidates receive \$500 from the Society to attend the Governing Board retreat.

President Jackson clarified that this is open to students and professionals. Chris Bacey and Jessica Thompson both participated and gave the experience high marks.

AFS 2nd VP, Steve McMullin, mentioned the Society recently contracted with a consulting firm specializing in communications. The firm will be interviewing current and lapsed members to collect their feedback on how the Society can enhance communications among members. Steve also mentioned the Society recently hired a Deputy Executive Director with a strong background in non-profit management. The new position will concentrate on the "nuts and bolts" management of the Society while Executive Director Austen will focus more on external outreach.

President Jackson updated the EXCOM on future meeting locations. Planning Co-Chairs, Pat Mazik and Stuart Welch, will provide an update on the 2016 Division meeting at tomorrow's business meeting. President Jackson noted the meeting will be held at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, February 20-24, 2016. Oklahoma Chapter will be hosting the 2017 Division meeting, but details will be forthcoming. Puerto Rico Chapter President, Miguel Garcia, updated the EXCOM on potentially hosting the 2018 Division meeting in San Juan. President Jackson encouraged Miguel to present a letter, containing a proposal plan, to the Division officers. Discussion ensued relevant to student travel assistance. President Jackson mentioned the Division could plan ahead and budget more for student travel assistance. Jim Bowker recommended following the Western Division's Mazatlan, Mexico, travel support fund model, which included a Society match component.

Society President, Donna Parrish, joined the meeting and shared a few words. She reiterated the expectation of a large Society meeting in Portland. She expressed her excitement to have the Governing Board meeting attached to this Savannah meeting. This allowed her and other Society officers the opportunity to arrive early and participate in the Southern Division's meeting. This was her 1st Southern Division to attend. She closed by stating she will share a few words at tomorrow's business meeting.

President-Elect Riecke shared the advantages of AFS membership in response to an earlier comment. Society President Parrish mentioned AFS membership costs are less expensive compared to other natural resource

(EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

professional societies. She reminded the group of the costs involved in running the Society. She mentioned that the Governing Board will be discussing the option of extending the time available for the young professionals membership category. President Jackson mentioned the functional cost of membership has gone down due to the cheaper online journal subscription rates. Jim Bowker mentioned the value of return on investment in the form of travel grants, scholarships, etc., but members have to pursue those opportunities. Wes Neal mentioned the target audience for communicating Society involvement benefits should also include employers, so they support employee participation and certification. Miguel Garcia noted the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources pays employee membership dues to the Society.

Following no further new business or discussion items, President Jackson adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 1718 hrs.

Business Meeting: January 30th, 2015, Savannah, GA

The 2015 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1735 hrs by President John Jackson. Secretary-Treasurer Craig Bonds determined a quorum was present. President Jackson recognized the current SDAFS officers: Dennis Riecke, President-Elect; Dave Coughlan, Vice- President; Mike Allen, immediate Past President; and Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer. President Jackson recognized AFS officers: Donna Parrish, President; Ron Essig, President-Elect; Steve McMullin, 2nd Vice President and Division Past President; Bob Hughes, immediate Past President; and Jim Bowker, Western Division President-Elect. President Jackson mentioned the Society's Governing Board will be meeting immediately following the Division meeting, giving Board members from around the country the opportunity to come early and participate in the Division meeting. President Jackson also recognized SDAFS Past Presidents: Bob Curry, Fred Heitman, Cecil Jennings, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, Brian Murphy, and Nick Parker. President Jackson recognized Society staff Tom Bigford and Beverly Pike.

President Jackson introduced AFS President Donna Parrish.

AFS President Donna Parrish's Remarks: President Parrish mentioned she was thrilled to visit a warmer area of the country and thanked the Division meeting planning team for accommodating Society staff. She mentioned Executive Director Doug Austen is still in a meeting in Rome, Italy, but would be joining the Division meeting later in the week. She reminded attendees that Chapter presidents are non-voting members of the Governing Board and welcomed them to attend their Monday meeting. Donna informed attendees of the Society's efforts to address and analyze communication strategies within the Society. A media firm has been contracted to facilitate the Governing Board retreat. Topics of discussion will include how the Society communicates, how it can enhance communication, and how members can provide their input into these strategies. Donna extended an invitation to attend the 2015 Society meeting in Portland, Oregon, from August 16 – 20. She anticipates high attendance. Meeting planners will limit presentations to one per attendee, and a push will be made to include at least one student talk per symposium.

(Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

President Jackson's Address: President Jackson mentioned his opportunity to attend the Western Division Meeting in Mazatlan, Mexico. Jackson highlighted the Division officers' efforts to revise the procedures manual. Great progress was made throughout the past year. One of Jackson's main tasks as immediate Past President will be to complete this effort. Jackson mentioned turnover in several roles. Zack Martin will take over the webmaster role from Gloria Schoenholtz, and Sasha Doss will take over the newsletter editing role from Brandon Peoples. Jackson mentioned the prior change to bylaws to include a Student Representative on the EXCOM as a voting member. Brandon Peoples was elected (by students) to serve in that new role and will be installed at this meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonds' Report: Minutes from the 2014 Charleston Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2014 SDAFS Newsletter and posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bonds made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded (Marcel Reichert) and the 2014 Business Meeting minutes were approved by vote. Bonds presented the 2014 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 2013 IRS return was submitted prior to the May 15th reporting deadline. Bonds presented the 2015 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. He reported that the Audit Committee completed their audit on 8 January 2015, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. Bonds moved to approve the 2015 budget. Motion was seconded (Bob Curry) and passed by unanimous vote.

Host Chapter Report: Georgia Chapter General Meeting Chair Joey Slaughter welcomed members to Savannah. Slaughter noted registered attendees totaled approximately 674 (at time of business meeting), which is believed to be a Division record. He thanked the meeting sponsors and the Planning Committee, including Chris Harper (Local Arrangements Chair), Joel Fleming (Local Arrangements Committee member), Chris Kalinowski (Audio/Visual), Rebecca Brown (Registration/Finances), Nicole Rankin (Registration/Information-Technology), Steve Sammons and Cecil Jennings (Program Co-Chairs), Tim Bonvechio (Continuing Education Workshops), Bryant Bowen (Poster Session), John Kilpatrick (Symposia), Cindy Williams (Volunteers/Miscellaneous), and Amy Dukes (Trade Show). The host Chapter raised approximately \$62,000 to support the meeting.

President-Elect Dennis Riecke's Chapter Activity Report: Riecke mentioned briefing book reports contained a lot of information related to Chapter meetings, awards, and student scholarships. Riecke highlighted a few. Past President Allen will teach a continuing education course on fish population dynamics using Microsoft Excel to Arkansas Chapter members at their annual meeting. Riecke commended the Arkansas Chapter for their six student sub-units. The Auburn Chapter raised \$6,500 to support member activities, setting their own Chapter's fundraising record. The Mississippi Chapter reported 81% of their members were also Society members. They also digitally archived past meeting minutes and abstracts and passed a resolution taking a position on the sale of game fish in Mississippi. Oklahoma Chapter's Environmental Concerns Committee completed a position statement on the sustainable use of water resources in their state. The Puerto Rico Chapter held its first meeting. The Virginia Chapter is working on a waterproof, quick field fish identification key.

(Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

Vice President Dave Coughlan's Technical Committee Report: Coughlan commended TCs on the quality of their websites and encouraged attendees to visit them online. Coughlan mentioned the Striped Bass TC is developing their web pages. The Alligator Gar TC, besides maintaining an excellent website, is experimenting with alternative meeting sites in an effort to boost membership and participation. The Aquaculture TC maintains a comprehensive list of hatcheries and staff contact information located in the Division's geographic footprint. The Catfish Management TC conducted a catfish aging workshop at last year's Division meeting and maintains an excellent website. The Reservoir TC has been working with the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership on scoring project proposals. They are also working on updating their habitat manual and awarded one Robert Jenkins student scholarship. The Trout TC meets outside the Division meeting. Several of their members attended the 10th Anniversary of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture in Shepherdstown, WV. The Warmwater Streams TC maintains an excellent website, containing videos and publications. They also manage their own Facebook page. They hosted a continuing education workshop at the 2015 Division meeting on data standardization for rivers and streams in the Southern U.S., as well as a special symposium entitled, "Meeting our Data Needs with Limited Resources: Recent Advances in Stream Sampling Techniques". The Pollution Ad Hoc Committee is updating monetary values of freshwater mussel and fish kills.

President Jackson's Standing Committee Report: Jackson recognized Dennis Riecke as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Riecke read a prepared resolution in appreciation of the host Chapter. He mentioned the EXCOM had previously approved it and called for a motion to approve by members. Gene Wilde moved to approve the resolution of appreciation to the Georgia Chapter. Steve McMullin seconded; motion passed unanimously. 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 2013. 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 in 2014 precluded publication and dissemination of the 2014 fall newsletter. Listserv functionality was restored, the draft resolution was published in the newsletter. Gene Wilde moved to approve resolution and was seconded by Dave Coughlan. Wilde offered a friendly amendment specific to the clause mentioning state agencies and permitting agencies promulgating laws to include state legislatures in that group, but specify that agencies promulgating regulations and legislatures enacting laws. Motion to approve the resolution (as amended) passed unanimously. Brad Ray moved the Division elevate the resolution up to the Society's Resolutions Committee for consideration. Gene Wilde seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ballot Committee Chair, Pat Mazik, noted other committee members were Past-President Allen and Vic DiCenzo. Division elections were held electronically in 2014 using Survey Monkey. Wes Porak and Craig Bonds were candidates for Vice President; Kim Bonvechio and Jill Hendon were candidates for Secretary-Treasurer; Kyle Hartman and Mike Kaller were candidates for SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee; and Brandon Peoples and Zach Siders were candidates for Student Representative to the EXCOM. Mazik announced Wes Porak as incoming Vice President, Kim Bonvechio as incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Kyle Hartman as incoming Representative to the Society's Nominating Committee, and Brandon Peoples as incoming Student

(Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

Representative to the EXCOM. President Jackson notified members of a decision by the EXCOM to clarify/simplify election, term duration, and installation of the Division's Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee (see 2015 EXCOM meeting minutes for specifics of change).

Presentation of Awards: President Jackson recognized Gene Wilde as the Awards Committee Chair for assisting. President-Elect Riecke announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Jackson congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The runner-up 2014 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Travis Tuten (Andrew Dutterer, Kevin Johnson, Eric Nagid, and Matthew Lauretta, co-authors) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service (M. Lauretta only). First place was given to Greg Binion (Dan Daugherty and Kristopher Bodine, co-authors) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 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 2014 SDAFS Meeting in Charleston went to Liz Duermit (Melissa Hughes, Peter Kingsley-Smith, David Whitaker, and Dara Wilber, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2014 SDAFS Meeting was given to Rebecca Mortensen (Stephen A. Arnott, William J. Jones, and Dianne Greenfield, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Zach Siders (Grant Scholten and Robert Ahrens, co-authors) of the University of Florida. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Wes Porak for his contributions to the advancement of fisheries conservation of native black basses.

Riecke presented an appreciation certificate and plaque to both the host Georgia Chapter (specifically those mentioned in the resolution of appreciation) and to General Meeting Chair, Joey Slaughter, in recognition of their efforts.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Patrick Snellings (Auburn University) and Ben Tumolo (Murray State University).

Brian Alford, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Tomas Ivasauskas of North Carolina State University.

President Jackson recognized Bob Curry, Division Representative to SEAFWA, and asked him to notify membership of a recent C. W. Watson Award winner. Bob announced that Fred Harris (former AFS and Southern Division President) was bestowed this honor at the 2014 SEAFWA Conference. This award represents the most prestigious honor given by the SEAFWA.

(Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

Old Business: None.

Installation of 2015 Officers: Newly installed officers, Kim Bonvechio, Secretary-Treasurer; Wes Porak, Vice President; Dave Coughlan, President-Elect; and Dennis Riecke, President, were escorted to the head of the room. John Jackson presented the Presidential gavel to Dennis Riecke.

Newly Installed President Riecke's Remarks: Jackson thanked Bonds for his service as Secretary-Treasurer and presented him with an appreciation plaque. Riecke also thanked outgoing President Jackson 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 2015 includes completing the procedural manual revision, updating Division and sub-unit websites, nurturing the establishment of an Alabama Chapter, encouraging each sub-unit to perform one new fisheries project, promoting AFS (e.g. professional certification, recruit new member, and engage/commit to contribute), and finding replacements for the Resolutions Committee Chair and Listserv administrator.

New Business: President Riecke called for Pat Mazik to give an update on next year's meeting. Mazik stated the 2016 Division Annual Meeting will be held at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, February 17th – 21st. Mazik covered some anticipated meeting details and mentioned the meeting website is up and running.

President Riecke closed by presenting Past President John Jackson with a Southern Division cap and an old bottle of Patron tequila. As an award for making it through a Division business meeting, Patrick O'Rourke drew two raffle tickets for a GoPro Hero 3 video camera (won by Tom Bigford) and a Bass Pro Shops gift card (won by Dan Shoup).

Hearing no new business, President Riecke adjourned the meeting at 1856 hrs.


**SOUTHERN DIVISION OF
THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**



SAVANNAH 2015



Tim Bonvechio accepts Past President's plaque from Patrick O'Rourke.



2014 SDAFS Award Winners

Check out the wonderful members in SDAFS that were recognized for their contributions to the society. Students and professionals alike were awarded for their outstanding service and achievements.

Presentation of Awards: President Jackson recognized Gene Wilde as the Awards Committee Chair. President-Elect Riecke announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Jackson congratulated recipients and presented the awards:

Runner-up for the 2014 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was Travis Tuten (Andrew Dutterer, Kevin Johnson, Eric Nagid, and Matthew Laurretta, co-authors) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service (M. Laurretta only).

First place for the 2014 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award went to Greg Binion (Dan

Daugherty and Kristopher Bodine, co-authors) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. 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 2014 SDAFS Meeting in Charleston went to Liz Duermit (Melissa Hughes, Peter Kingsley Smith, David Whitaker, and Dara Wilber, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2014 SDAFS Meeting was given to Rebecca Mortensen (Steven

Arnott, William Jones, and Diane Greenfield, co-authors) of the College of Charleston. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Zach Siders (Grant Scholten and Robert Ahrens, co-authors) of the University of Florida. First authors received plaques and co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Wes Porak for his contributions to the advancement of fisheries conservation of native black basses.

Resolutions Chair Riecke presented an appreciation certificate and plaque to both the host Georgia Chapter (specifically those mentioned in the resolution of appreciation) and to General Meeting Chair, Joey Slaughter, in recognition of their efforts to plan the 2015 SDAFS Spring meeting.

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Patrick Snellings (Auburn University) and Ben Tumolo (McMurry State University).

Brian Alford, Chair of the Warmwater Streams Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Thomas Ivasauskas of North Carolina State University.

Bob Curry, Division Representative to SEAFWA announced that Fred Harris (former AFS and Southern Division President) had received the C.W. Watson Award at the 2014 SEAFWA Conference. This award represents the most prestigious honor given by the SEAFWA.

2015 SDAFS Spring Meeting Student Award Winners

The Runner-up Best Student Presentation went to Derek L. Bahr, University of Georgia, (Coauthor: Douglas L. Peterson) for his presentation "Atlantic Sturgeon Recruitment in the Savannah River, Georgia". Derek received \$50.00 and a certificate plaque.

The Best Student Presentation went to David A. Dippold, University of Southern Mississippi, (Coauthors: Robert T. Leaf, J. Read Hendon and James Franks) for his presentation "Estimation and Validation of the Length-at-Age Relationship of Mississippi's Spotted Seatrout". David received \$100.00 and a certificate plaque.

The Best Student Poster went to Eric Tidmore, West Liberty University, (Coauthors: Nicole Sadecky and Zachary Loughman) for his poster "Epigeal Crayfishes of the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Kentucky River: Life History and Ecology" Eric received \$50.00 and a certificate plaque.



Call for Nominations

C.W. Watson Award
 Distinguished Service Award
 Achievement Award
 Best Chapter and Outstanding Subunit Award(s)

C.W. Watson Award Nominations

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 Ashville, North Carolina, November 1-4, 2015. 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: Dennis Riecke, MDWFP, 1505 Eastover Drive, Jackson, MS 39211; dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us; 601-432-2207 as soon as possible but no later than August 15, 2015.

In addition to the C.W. Watson award, the 2016 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.

Best Chapter and Outstanding Subunit

Nominations will be accepted until December 7, 2015. Letters in support of the nomination from other members are welcome. Awards criteria and past winners can be found on the SDAFS website at <http://sdafs.org/awards/>. Submit nominations to the SDAFS Awards Committee Chair.

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

Committee and Chapter Updates

Resolution Committee

Members attending the 2015 SDAFS Business Meeting in Savannah, GA voted to approve the resolution titled “The Use of Off-Highway Vehicles in Streams” which is posted at: <http://sdafs.org/resolutions/>. Members also voted to send this resolution to the AFS Resolutions Committee for their consideration.

Chapters and Chapter Subunits are encouraged to submit resolutions. Every fishery encompasses three essential elements: habitat, aquatic species and people. Any issue that impacts those elements may be worthy of a Division resolution. The committee has not considered any resolutions on marine fisheries or habitat issues in several years. Resolutions should be sent to Gene Wilde, Resolutions Committee Chairman gene.wilde@ttu.edu (w. 806-742-2715 ext 290). Resolutions can be submitted at any time but they must be published in a SDAFS newsletter. Resolutions are voted on at the SDAFS Annual Business meeting.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee

The Small Impoundments Technical Committee (SIC) is one of nine technical committees of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society. It focuses on the management and use of public and private impoundments less than 500 acres. Committee members represent various organizations including state and federal resource agencies, academia and private consultants. The main goal of the committee is to foster information exchange regarding research and management of small impoundments in the southeast.

In 2012 the SIC created an inclusive educational and reference textbook titled “Small Impoundment Management in North America.” The text was carefully designed to avoid regional focus and chapter authors were selected from all over North America. Former SIC Chair Wes Neal served as lead editor with associate editor, Dave Willis, from the North Central Division. A portion of proceeds from book sales come back to the SIC to fund other projects or student scholarships.



Recently, the Committee has been considering the need for research regarding small impoundments. Discussion at the 2015 meeting in Savannah, GA centered on collaborative research projects that could benefit anyone engaged in the management of small impoundments. The Committee is in the process of selecting a project, outlining objectives, and coordinating a panel or lead investigator to oversee the project. The research will likely be geared toward progressive or innovative small impoundment management strategies.

Want to learn more about the small impoundments committee? Visit <http://www.sdafs.org/sic/> or contact SIC Chair, Graves Lovell, Graves.Lovell@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Arkansas Chapter

The Arkansas Chapter held its 29th annual meeting on February 25-27 in Benton. Full meeting highlights can be found in our Lateral Line Newsletter at <http://www.sdafs.org/arkafs/>.

Plenary speakers Drs. Mike Allen and Steve Lochmann kicked off a great stocking symposium, and the program included 35 presentations and 6 posters. A total of 97 regular members and 28 student members were in attendance.

Big News: The Chapter is proud to announce the addition of the new Subunit at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Arkansas Chapter now has 6 subunits.

Mark Oliver was awarded the Joe Hogan Award for Individual Achievement in recognition of his "career achievements in promoting recreational fishing and contributing substantially to the science and techniques of effective reservoir management". At the end of June 2015, Mark will retire after a 37-year career with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Throughout his career, Mark has supported his colleagues and mentored up-and-coming biologists; the working relationship he has developed with stakeholders in Arkansas is unparalleled. Mark helped host

numerous Chapter and Southern Division AFS meetings and he helped the Chapter host the 2013 AFS meeting in Little Rock. Mark is one of the founding members of the Arkansas Chapter.



Mark Oliver was awarded the Joe Hogan Award.

The Chapter also recognized the following award winners:

Individual Achievement

Mike Eggleton: For his role as the Finance Chair at the AFS 2013 Annual Meeting in Little Rock.

2014-15 Outstanding Sub-unit Member Awards:

Arkansas State: Ben Williams
 Arkansas Tech: Alexa Ballinger
 University of Arkansas: Lindsey Bruckerhoff
 University of Arkansas at Little Rock: Katy Harmon
 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff: Matt Smith
 University of Central Arkansas: Brittany Furtado

Best Presentations

Poster: Jeremy Chamberlain
 Undergraduate Oral: Nathan Ford
 Graduate Oral: Tony Fernando
 Professional Oral: Jason Olive



Chapter President Jeff Quinn with Mark Oliver.

Arkansas Tech Student Subunit Chapter

This year was one of the best we have had as a society. Our annual Beast Feast brought in an outstanding profit, which was used to send 15 representatives to the 2015 Southeastern Wildlife Conclave hosted by Virginia Tech University. The wildlife conclave is a series of team and individual competitions for students from colleges across the southeastern United States. This year, the ATUFWS out-competed many schools including LSU, UT Martin, and the University of Florida. Our students placed in several individual competitions this year: Matt Gideon placed third place in poetry; Bradley Savage placed second in painting; Alex Hilburn honked his way into third for goose calling; and Alex Hilburn, Austin Klais, Bradley Savage, and Parker Ring won first place in the obstacle

course. In the team competition, the ATUFWS team placed 1st in skull id and 3rd in fisheries and wildlife law. Along with the competitions, professional presentations and technical training were provided on topics such as falconry, rocket netting, human-wildlife conflicts, wildlife cooking, and wilderness survival. As always, conclave was a great experience for out-of-the-classroom education, networking, and to enjoy each other's company while furthering ourselves and our program.

All of our volunteer events were also successful, such as helping at Bearcat Hollow WMA, and cleaning our mile stretch of highway. At our campus' annual Time Out For Tech, several incoming freshman showed a lot of interest in our society. We awarded Alexa Ballinger the Outstanding Fisheries Student nomination for the 2014-2015 school year due to her

commitment and volunteer work. Both Bradley Savage and Austin Klais were awarded scholarships from the Yell County Wildlife Foundation.

*-Bradley Savage
ATU Subunit President*

University of Arkansas Fayetteville Subunit

This has been a busy spring for the University of Arkansas student chapter of AFS. One member attended the regional AFS meeting in Savannah, GA. Three members attended the state AFS meeting in Benton and gave oral presentations over several topics including classifying flow regimes, identifying morphometric differences in central stonerollers among watersheds, and understanding the effects of climate change on smallmouth bass. Members have also helped in judging local and regional science fairs. Special thanks to member Dustin Lynch, who led snorkeling trips to local streams for AFS members and non-members alike. His expertise in fish and crayfish identification has helped many people appreciate the amazing diversity of the Ozarks.

In the coming months, several members are preparing for presentations at the National AFS meeting in Portland, OR. This



summer we will continue our snorkeling excursions to local streams and will also conduct several float trips on area rivers.

*-Chris Middaugh
Treasurer, U of A Subunit*

University of Arkansas Pine Bluff Subunit

The UAPB sub-unit has been extremely busy this spring. We have had many students attend conferences like the AFS Southern Division meeting in Savannah, GA, Aquaculture America meeting in New Orleans, LA, and the AR AFS state chapter meeting in Benton, AR to present the research they are working on. For about the whole semester we collected items

(non-perishable foods, clothes, toys, etc.) to donate to the Pine Bluff Neighbor-to-Neighbor organization that helps needy families. We deemed this event “Stuff the Boat” as we stuffed a boat with all the items we collected. We held a bake sale this spring at the UAPB Unity Fest. We used money we made from our bake sale last fall (2014) to pay for CPR training class for some of our members. We had Lindsey Lewis from the USFWS come do a seminar for our members back in March. We did article discussion nights a few times this spring also, where we select a paper from the current literature and discuss it while having dinner at Wings-to-go. We Judged the Southeast Arkansas Regional Science fair in

Monticello, AR (UAM campus) and presented awards in two categories to students with the most outstanding aquatic sciences related science fair projects. We had a trout-fishing derby at MLK Park Pond in Pine Bluff after it was recently stocked by the AGFC. We had a successful and exciting spring and look forward to doing more activities and volunteering during the 2015-2016 school year.

*-Kyler Hecke
Vice President, UAPB Subunit*



Members of the UAPB student sub-unit with the boat used for the “Stuff the Boat” event.

University of Central Arkansas Subunit

The UCA subunit has kept busy with opportunities for our members to attend professional meetings, engage in community outreach, and participate in subunit activities. Members Brittany Furtado and Heather Saco attended the Southeastern Fishes Council Annual Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina last November. Brittany presented her research on the impact of natural gas development on fish communities of the Fayetteville Shale, and Heather presented a poster on her preliminary analysis of historic and contemporary fish assemblages of Sylamore Creek.

Brittany Furtado, Heather Saco and Kristin Caserta gave oral presentations on their research at the Chapter meeting in February. Undergraduate Kristin Caserta presented her research on aspects of reproductive biology of Mullet – a catadromous fish species in the lower Arkansas River. Brittany Furtado and Lucy Baker also presented posters at the state meeting.

April was a busy month for our membership. Subunit officer elections were held with the following results: President – Heather Saco, Vice-President –

Lucy Baker, Secretary – Lori Monday, Treasurer – Geoffry Spooner, and Communications Master – Nate Weston. New officers Heather Saco and Lucy Baker were thrilled to assist Bill Shinn as judges for the AFS Aquatic Science Award at the state science fair held at UCA.

The subunit welcomed Dr. Brook Fluker as a guest speaker on April 2. Dr. Fluker, associate professor from Arkansas State University, gave a seminar on his research of aquatic biodiversity. Later in April, the membership welcomed Dr. Maureen “Mo” Donnelly as a guest speaker. Dr. Donnelly, current president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at Florida International University, delivered a seminar on her research of the Strawberry Poison Frog. Both speakers presented dynamic and memorable talks, and we are grateful for their contribution.

Members Heather Saco, Lucy Baker, Lori Monday and Luke Pearson volunteered at Science Night at Carl Stuart Middle School in Conway on April 21. The kids and parents enjoyed handling native fishes and herps including two king snakes, a river cooter, a

red eared slider and preserved macroinvertebrates and fishes. Subunit members volunteered for Earth Day activities at the Jewel Moore Nature Reserve (JMNR) on the campus of UCA. Members participated in a stream clean-up and helped scavenger hunt participants identify native fishes and macroinvertebrates. It was the biggest Earth Day event at the JMNR so far, and we look forward to being a big presence next year as well.

On April 24, members volunteered at the Girl Power in STEM event at UCA. Over 300 eighth grade girls, chaperones and volunteers came from all over the state of Arkansas to attend this annual event. Participants listened to speakers from various STEM disciplines including aquatic ecology, herpetology and hydrology. The volunteers were just as inspired and motivated by the event as the eighth graders.

- Heather Saco
President UCA Subunit



Lucy Baker teaching macroinvertebrate identification at an Earth Day event.

Arkansas State Subunit

The ASU subunit, in conjunction with the Marine Biology Club, Wildlife Club, and Kayak and Canoe Club, participated in the following activities:

Spring Break field trip to the Gulf Coast, where they camped on Grand Isle, LA and visited the New Orleans Aquarium, I-Max theater, Insectarium and New Orleans Zoo.

They then went to Biloxi and visited the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory of the University of Southern Mississippi. There they boarded the Miss Peetsy B, (donated to the GCRL by Jimmy Buffet and which runs on used cooking oil) and performed several benthic trawls, a beach seine, and in-dwelling benthos sampling. The group then visited the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, MS.

The subunit also participated in two outreach opportunities; a booth at the A-State Earth Day celebration and conducted workshops as part of the A-State Science Fun Day organized by multiple A-State Clubs for >60 6th grade Gifted and Talented students.

Finally, the subunit participated in a Work Weekend at the Harp Environmental Field Station on the Buffalo National River. After loading scrap metal, cleaning up limbs, sweeping out the attic of rat residues and sterilizing the long-neglected refrigerator the students did a float from the Highway 14 Bridge to Rush Landing.

- Rich Grippo



ASU subunit members participate in Earth Day activities.

chapter hosted a southern division meeting since 2000 and it was a huge success with a total of 700 registered participants. The meeting included more than 300 oral and poster presentations, 9 technical committee meetings, and 7 workshops with subject matter including courses in statistics (Intro to R; Occupancy Modeling), outreach (Social Media), job training (Electrofishing Safety; Getting Hired), and technical use of

data (SEACAP Workshop; River/Stream Data Standardization). These courses were attended by more than 300 people from the southeast and beyond. The meeting also hosted a SARP Steering Committee Meeting, an inaugural Fellowship of Christian Conservationists meeting, an Alabama AFS Coordination Meeting to discuss efforts to reorganize the Alabama chapter, and the first business meeting of the

Society of Lake Management Professionals.

Georgia Chapter

The Georgia chapter of The American Fisheries Society (GA-AFS) hosted the 2015 Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) spring meeting in Savannah this past January. This was the first time the GA-AFS

A new mobile application was used for the first time at a divisional meeting in Savannah. The app was downloaded more than 600 times prior to and during the meeting and provided a much higher level of functionality than the traditional paper meeting program.

Participants were able to receive real-time information and updates about the meeting and were able to connect with other conference attendees through the use of the mobile application. The divisional meeting also served as a great outreach tool for the GA-AFS Chapter. A total of 52 new members joined the GA-AFS Chapter at the meeting which is a 47% increase in membership over the previous year.

The GA-AFS Chapter is currently in the planning stages of creating scholarship opportunities for fisheries students in Georgia. Profits from the southern division meeting will be combined with proceeds from the chapter's annual meeting raffle, as well as individual contributions to create an endowment fund for an annual student scholarship and undergraduate travel stipend. In addition, the chapter is working to create a scholarship for female fisheries students in honor of the late Noreen Clough.

During the chapter's last business meeting, Joey Slaughter was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for his work as the General Meeting Chair for the 2015 SDAFS meeting. Joey worked relentlessly to connect with groups that have not traditionally taken part in SDAFS meetings, which greatly added to the diversity of

scientific presentations at the meeting. His planning skills, fundraising efforts, and ability to assemble and lead a dedicated planning committee led to what we feel was one of the best SDAFS meetings to date. Thank you Joey for your hard work and dedication and congratulations on a job well done.

Congratulations to GA-AFS Chapter Member Gary Grossman for receiving the 2014 Carl R. Sullivan Fishery Conservation Award from The American Fisheries Society. This award is presented to an individual or organization each year for "outstanding contributions to the conservation of fishery resources." Gary is the 23rd person to win the award since it began in 1991.

In October, GA-AFS will be assisting with the Southeastern High School Kayak Fishing Championships. (<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/habersham/4h/SoutheasternJuniorKayakFishingChampionship.html>) Chapter members will assist with the administration of the tournament. This will give our members an opportunity to help educate the generation of our state's anglers on the science behind the management of our aquatic resources and allow any interested students an opportunity to find out more about the fisheries profession.

Plans for the annual 2016 GA-AFS meeting are underway and we are anticipating another spectacular event. GA-AFS will be hosting a joint meeting with the newly reorganized Alabama AFS chapter on the banks of the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, GA. Information about the upcoming meeting can be found on our website at www.gaafs.org.



Joey Slaughter accepts an award from Patrick O'Rourke in Savannah.

Louisiana Chapter

The 36th annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (LA AFS) was held on May 29-30, 2015 at the headquarters of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Attendees numbered 151, with 109 professionals and 42 students. The two day meeting schedule 34 oral presentations and 15 posters. Twenty-eight (57%) of the presentations and posters were authored by students. Nine student awards were presented. At the social at the Varsity Theater, the Tee Chaoui (little raccoon tail) Social Club entertained members with traditional and modern Cajun dance music. The theme of the 2015 meeting was "Perspectives on Fish Habitat Restoration". The plenary panel was Mr. Chris Allen, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Dr. Bryan Piazza, The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana, Mrs. Angeline Rodger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mr. Patrick Williams, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Student Awards

Abstracts

First Place – David Reeves, Louisiana State University; Oil and

gas platforms provide refugia for stone crabs (*Menippe* spp.) living within the northern Gulf of Mexico's hypoxic zone.

Second Place - Erica Rottman, Southeastern Louisiana University; Expanding detection capabilities of fishes in Louisiana: an integrative eDNA approach

Third Place - Christopher Darnell, Nicholls State University; Habitat-specific life history variation in the Gulf pipefish, *Syngnathus scovelli*

Poster

First Place - Heidi Olivier, Louisiana State University; Acute toxicity of FA-GLU, a microbial based biosurfactant, on larval gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*).

Second Place - Arnaud Kerisit, University of New Orleans; Community composition of aquatic invertebrates in natural and artificial estuarine passes of Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana

Third Place - Damon Morse, University of New Orleans; Dispersion of non-native channeled apple snails (*Pomacea* spp.) in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, 2014

Oral Presentation

First Place - Savannah Michaelsen, Southeastern Louisiana University; Genetic structure and migration patterns of red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Second Place - Barclay Pace, Louisiana State University; Infectivity pattern of white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) in the Louisiana red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*).

Third place - Erica Rottman, Southeastern Louisiana University; Expanding detection capabilities of fishes in Louisiana: an integrative eDNA approach

Mississippi Chapter

General News

Current Officers:

President: Peter Allen

President-elect: Tyler Stubbs

Past-President: Wes Neal

Treasurer and Secretary: Jennifer Green

Student Award Coordinator:
Robert Leaf

Mississippi State University
student sub-unit president: Clay Raines

University of Southern Mississippi
student sub-unit president: Virginia Fleer

Webmaster: Kevin Hunt

Historian: Larry Bull

Outgoing Past-President: Stephen Brown

Outgoing MSU student sub-unit
president: Daniel Sullivan and
Melanie Parker

Outgoing USM student sub-unit
president: Jeremy Higgs

Annual Meeting

The MS Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its annual meeting from March 25-27 at Tara Wildlife near Vicksburg, MS. There were approximately 75 attendees from state and federal government agencies, universities and private entities. Twenty-seven oral presentations and 6 poster presentations were given. The conference was generously supported by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries

and Parks, the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (USM/GCRL), Mississippi State University (MSU) and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Mississippi.

The Chapter recognized the service of Past-President Wes Neal and elected Tyler Stubbs, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks as the new President-elect. Jennifer Green continued her dedicated service and leadership



President Peter Allen congratulates Wes Neal for his service as Past-President of the MS Chapter

as Treasurer and Secretary for the Chapter. Dr. Robert Leaf, USM/GCRL, served as the Student Award Coordinator.

The Chapter presented two awards for the breadth and depth of career contributions and impacts on the lives of others in the field of fisheries. The C.A. Schultz Award was presented to Dr. Mark Peterson, USM/GCRL who gave an excellent presentation titled: "Fish habitat conservation at extremes: linkages and wanderings in Mississippi aquatic sciences". The

Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Dr. Steve Miranda, US Geological Survey Cooperative Unit, MSU. The Mississippi State Chapter is indebted to these individuals for their dedication, energy and career impact that they



Dr. Mark Peterson receives the C.A. Schultz Award from outgoing MS AFS President Stephen Brown.

have had in Mississippi, in the US, and abroad.

Three awards were given to students for the best presentations. These awards are sponsored by the continued generosity and support of CCA Mississippi and have been a feature of the annual meeting since 2009. Eleven students from the USM/GCRL and MSU fisheries programs competed this year with the winners being judged by a panel of professionals from academic, management and research settings. The awards include a plaque and a cash award sponsored by CCA MS and has become a sought-after recognition by the students.

Winning presentations were: 1st Place: David Dippold, USM/GCRL. Exploring the use of age-based egg- and yield-per-recruit models for the Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) fishery in Mississippi; 2nd Place: Charlie Culpepper, MSU. White Crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) induced spawning and out-of-season spawning in tank aquaculture systems; 3rd Place: Cynthia Fox, MSU. Effects of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) population reduction on home range size and prey species size distribution and abundance.

CCA MS was honored to receive the MSAFS Fishery Conservation Award, presented above by Stephen Brown, MDWFP, Past President, to F. J. Eicke, representing CCA MS. This award recognized the work of CCA MS "For demonstrated support of sustainable fisheries and fisheries resources and the organization's long standing support of the Mississippi Chapter's Student Presentation Awards." CCA was founded recognizing that marine sciences must support our management positions. Support for student research is a vital part of their programs of study and puts CCA on the doorstep of developing the researchers and marine science professionals of the future.

University of Southern Mississippi Subunit

The Subunit held a variety of fundraisers, outreach events and was a strong presence at the 2015 MS AFS annual meeting. The Subunit held a very successful raffle and silent auction at the annual meeting and was instrumental in meeting support and coordination.



USM/GCRL Student Sub-unit President receives certificate from MS AFS President Peter Allen.

Mississippi State University

Officers: 2014-2015

Co Presidents: Daniel Sullivan and Melanie Parker

Secretary: Jason Bies

Treasurer: Cory Shoemaker

Dean's Council: Bryant Haley

Activities Chair: Dylan Hann and Clint Lloyd

President Elect: Clay Raines

Officers: 2015-2016

President: Clay Raines

Vice President: Kevin Keretz

Secretary: Hallie Tompkins

Treasurer: Jason Bies

Dean's Council: Colin Dinken

This year our Subunit has held true to its mission to promote strong communication and professional



Student Presentation Award Winners, Peter Allen, MSU, President-elect, Robert Leaf, USM/GCRL, Coordinator of Judging, F. J. Eicke, CCA MS, (1st) David Dippold, USM/GCRL, (2nd) Charlie Culpepper, MSU, (3rd) Cynthia Fox, MSU, and Wes Neal, MSU, President.

development among fisheries students and current professionals at MSU and within the state of Mississippi. With the provided support and opportunities of AFS, our members continue to strive towards excellence as they progress towards becoming the next generation of fisheries professionals. In August, our Subunit was invited by the Dean of the College of Forest Resources to guide and direct a fishing event for incoming first-year freshman. In September, 15 Subunit members successfully completed the Department of Interior (DOI) Motorboat Operators Certification Course with Dr. Hal Schramm. This year our Subunit with the MSU Bass Club, held a Fall Break public bass tournament on Pickwick Lake. The tournament was a success and we plan to hold this tournament again next year. Further, our Subunit conducted a fisheries techniques workshop for subunit members and students at Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine. We introduced and provided instruction on different types of sampling to include electrofishing, setting trap nets, and seine nets. The workshop was well received and our subunit would like to extend this workshop in the future. Our Subunit is also involved with the Starkville School District's Science Club which provides

excelling 4th and 5th graders an excellent opportunity to learn about the different facets of science each week. This year, we taught the students anatomy and physiological functions of fish while conducting class wide fish dissections. Our members continue striving to provide their peers and the community technical assistance whenever the opportunity presents itself. We had both undergraduate and graduate student members present their phenomenal research at conferences at all levels of AFS. To wrap up the year, we elected 2015-2016 officers and are looking forward to seeing these leaders guide us through another eventful year.

Subunit Website:
<http://msuafs.org.msstate.edu/>

Starkville Science Club (link to section AFS members taught):
<http://starkvillescienceclub.wordpress.com/2014/10/24/ichthyology-2/>

Subunit Facebook page (location where most events, fundraisers, photos are posted)
<https://www.facebook.com/msu.aafs>



MSU AFS Subunit out-going President Daniel Sullivan at a fisheries sampling event.

Puerto Rico Chapter

Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) is the agency tasked with managing the reservoir recreational fishery on the island. The main target species are largemouth bass and butterfly peacock bass, although other species such as jaguar guapotes, sunfish and tilapia are also popular, especially with shoreline anglers. The Maricao Fish Hatchery (the only hatchery dedicated to recreational and sport uses), within the PRDNER, produces largemouth bass and sunfish for stocking in the reservoirs.

PRDNER experienced difficulties with managing largemouth bass from the continental U.S.A. in tropical reservoirs. Bass longevity was poor (3-4 years, maximum), and very rarely did they reach rophy size. A research project was designed to determine the nature of the problem and recommend alternatives.

Several years of research on the largemouth bass by Mississippi State University (MSU) personnel concluded that no pure Florida largemouth bass populations remained in any of the island reservoirs (Neal et al. 2014). All were composed of intergrade

(Florida x northern) largemouth bass. This resulted in characteristics that were contrary to the management goals of the agency, including reduced maximum size and longevity. MSU recommended that the Maricao Fish Hatchery import Florida strain largemouth bass (FLMB) to compare their growth and survival with the intergrade stock. This evaluation demonstrated the superiority of the Florida strain in the tropical reservoirs of Puerto Rico, and they are now exclusively stocked in PR waters.

Florida Bass Conservation Center provided 40,000 FLMB fry, a portion of which were retained as future broodstock and others were raised to fingerling size for stocking in reservoirs. Genetic samples of the imported FLMB were archived for future comparisons. This research project effectively addressed one of the fundamental problems PRDNER faced in inland fisheries management. It is hoped that the imported FLMB will help improve the experience of both local anglers and visitors.

This research was funded by the Sportfish Restoration Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

University of Tennessee Knoxville Subunit

At UTK, Wildlife and Fisheries Management students have the opportunity to be a part of a very close knit, active and passionate group of rising professionals within the university. Our goal as a student chapter, full of aspiring wildlife and fisheries professionals, is to give students opportunities to stand out through their education and volunteer background in the society. Being a member of the UTK Wildlife and Fisheries Society is more than paying dues, it is a networking platform as well as a social bond between students. The spring semester has been busy for our organization!

Annual Wild Game Dinner

Our annual Wild Game Dinner on February 7th was once again very successful and we are proud of our members for coming together and hosting a great event. We hosted over 250 guests with the help of just fewer than 30 society members and a very active panel of advisors (Dr. Brian Alford, Dr. David Buehler, Dr. Emma Willcox and Chris Graves). We could not have accomplished this success without the help of each member present and the teamwork everyone demonstrated. Planning

is already underway for the 2016 Wild Game Dinner and we are enthusiastic for an even bigger and better event!

For the Wild Game Dinner, a group of our students came together to sein our professor's pond. This provided a learning opportunity for basic fisheries techniques and was an awesome way to come together as a team to accomplish a large goal.

Volunteer Projects

In May the student chapter sent a group to volunteer with the Little River Watershed Association at their annual Stream Clean-up event in Maryville, TN. Other projects included the construction of our on-campus aquarium, volunteering with graduate student research, and assisting the UTK Fisheries Department with the collection of Mountain Madtoms and Bluebreast Darters in the French Broad River at Campbell Island in order to help restore and re-introduce the species into the Pigeon River at Vinson Island.

Social Gatherings

Along with the professional aspects of our society, we try to incorporate as many social events as we can each year. In the fall, we hosted our first annual Fish Fry which we will host again in the

coming year. This semester we also held our annual Crawfish Boil at Kyker Bottoms Refuge on April 24th to celebrate the end of the semester and a good year of work!

Conclave

Our society's proudest moment this year was winning 1st place at the Southeastern Wildlife Conclave hosted by Virginia Tech.

Looking Forward to the Fall

The society already has many great volunteer opportunities planned for the fall. These projects include the Little River Watershed Association's Stream School for Kids and Stream Monitoring Program, as well as various projects working with graduate students. We will also continue to partner with the Tennessee Valley Authority to volunteer during their Index of Biotic Integrity sampling trips, as well as getting even more involved within the surrounding community and doing more educational workshops for youth.

If you are interested in learning more about what we do, or are ever in the Knoxville area, our meetings are held every other Wednesday at 5:30pm on the UTK Agriculture Campus. Feel free to contact our Fisheries President, Emily Judson, at ejudson@vols.utk.edu. We look forward to another great year of fisheries projects and volunteer work ahead of us!



Subunit members try their hands at seining.

Virginia Chapter

The Virginia, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia Chapters of the American Fisheries Society met in Blacksburg, Virginia, February 17th-19th. Once again, the Continuing Education committee stepped up its game as Laurie Fox, Lloyd Hipkins, and John Kauffman combined their efforts to offer a workshop on aquatic vegetation identification and control methods. Plenary speakers included Exec. Dir. Douglas Austen and past AFS President John Boreman. Members of the three chapters contributed 22 outstanding podium presentations and 15 posters. Biologists, retirees and the like, all enjoyed the question and answer poster session held at the VT German Club Wednesday night. Best student paper awards were presented to Dustin Smith, West Virginia University, and Ashley Weston, Virginia Tech. Surber Fisheries Scientist award was presented to Brian Watkins and Citizen Conservationist award was presented to Ken Landgraf. Scholarship awards were presented to Amanda Hyman (graduate) and Erica Ascani (undergraduate). Officers include Don Orth, Past-President, Eric Hallerman, President, Craig Roghair, President-Elect, John Harris, Treasurer, and Christine May, Secretary.

Thanks to Dominion Virginia Power, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Aquatic Biological Monitoring Services, Bass Pro Shops, Biomark, Chesapeake Research Consortium, Midwest Lake Management, Parker Bows, Appomattox River Company, Urban Angler, Ltd., Sycamore Bend Retreat, National Bass Guide Service, Orvis, Shenandoah Streamworks, Aquatic Biological Monitoring Services Inc., John Kauffman, LLC, and Virginia

Tech for funding.



Above, Executive Director Doug Austen speaks at the Virginia, West Virginia, and Virginia Tech Joint Meeting. Left, John Copeland congratulates Amanda Hyman on a scholarship award. Below, VT professors enjoy the social.





Miscellaneous Announcements

Florida Atlantic Coast Telemetry Array (members pictured above)
 Distinguished Service Award
 Achievement Award
 Best Chapter and Outstanding Subunit Award(s)

Florida Atlantic Coast Telemetry (FACT) Array

This past May brought together scientists using passive acoustic telemetry to track aquatic animals for the bi-annual Florida Atlantic Coast Telemetry (FACT) Array meeting in Jupiter, Florida. The FACT group is a collaboration of organizations tracking aquatic animals in the US SE Atlantic Coast, Bahamas, and Caribbean. The meeting was sponsored by the generous people of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) and hosted by the Loxahatchee River Center. We had outstanding attendance with 31 scientists from 19 different government, university, private, and for-profit organizations convening to discuss current and future tracking projects and issues surrounding acoustic telemetry technology.

Founded in 2008, FACT has grown from seven groups to over two dozen. A core mission of FACT is to share

tag identification codes and receiver location information to allow scientists to extend their study area to the entire width and breadth of the FACT array which now includes over 350 receivers. Numerous novel animal movements have been discovered due to this collaboration including an annual tripletail migration, aggregation dynamics of sharks, and effects of extreme weather events on behavior. The partnership has also spurred additional research efforts, which would have otherwise been logistically and cost prohibitive.

The meeting kicked off with status updates and brief results from every group present. In response to a request during a previous meeting, members presented updated methods for receiver attachment and moorings. It was obvious from the variety of equipment used that attachment techniques need to

suit both the physical environment (e.g. bottom type, flow), as well as potential human interactions (e.g. dive areas). Attachments that ranged from cryptic brackets on wrecks to trawler-proof sand augers with specialized floats were presented. New members benefited by learning the successes and failures of past projects and asking for advice in specific situations.

The meeting concluded with presentations by the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN), the Animal Tracking Network (ATN), and SECOORA. A round table discussion ensued to discuss how to improve communication with non-scientists and potential members of FACT. In response, three committees were formed to resolve a possible name change, logo, and website. Results from the committees will be presented at the following meeting.

If you are using telemetry technology and would like to join FACT, or for more information, email Joy Young (Joy.Young@myfwc.com). Mark your calendars for our next meeting later this year in the Fall of 2015! Florida is calling!

Impacts of Oil Spill Disasters on Marine Habitats and Fisheries in North America

A few of the members of SDAFS published a book in October of 2014 titled **Impacts of Oil Spill Disasters on Marine Habitats and Fisheries in North America**. The book is available on Taylor and Francis, and the editors are J. Brian Alford (Tennessee Chapter AFS), Mark S. Peterson (Mississippi Chapter AFS), and Christopher C. Green (Louisiana Chapter AFS). Purchase the book is here:

<https://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781466557208>

Summary: At an increasingly global scale, aquatic scientists are heavily entrenched in understanding the fate of marine ecosystems in the face of human-altered environments. Oil spill disasters, especially large-scale ones like the 2010 Deepwater Horizon tragedy, have left uncertain and indelible marks on marine ecosystems.

Impacts of Oil Spill Disasters on Marine Habitats and Fisheries in North America contains independent scientific findings and critical reviews from experts researching the impacts of the Exxon Valdez, Ixtoc I, and

Deepwater Horizon oil spills on coastal fishery resources. Comprised of three sections, this seminal work:

- Details the physiological effects of oil-derived compounds on fishes, presenting results from field and laboratory investigations
- Addresses the science of assessing the impacts of oil spills and oil response measures on coastal habitats, with an emphasis on salt-marsh ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico
- Explores the quantified and potential impacts of oil spills on population and community dynamics of commercial and recreational fishery species
- Provides newly released results from the 25-year recovery of marine mammals, birds, and fishes following the Exxon Valdez spill

Chapters discuss new techniques for collecting and processing blood samples for toxicity testing, new aerial radar techniques for detecting unseen oil on marshes, consequences of oil prevention measures (such as diverting fresh water to estuaries or building sand berms to stop oil) on coastal fishery resources, and non-traditional methods for assessing the herring stock in Prince William Sound, Alaska, USA following the Exxon Valdez disaster.

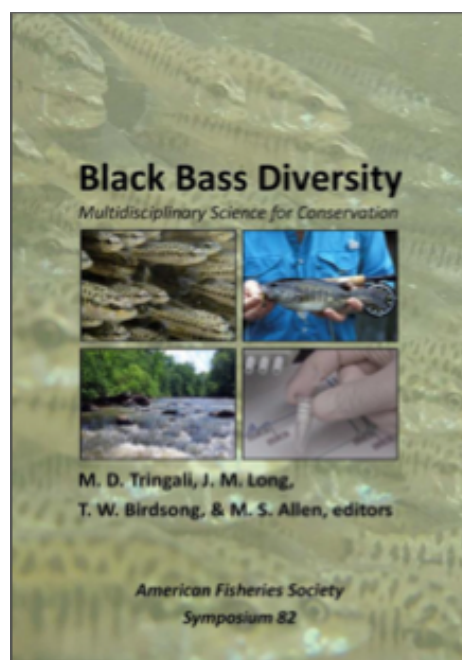
Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation

The trilogy of black bass symposium publications is now complete. The latest book in the series dedicates 47 chapters to the biological, ecological, genetic, and management concerns of endemic basses within the genus *Micropterus*, with special emphasis on their conservation needs. Despite their geographically restricted natural ranges and unique life histories, many of these basses have garnered little attention from scientists over the years – more research studies have been completed within the last ten years than in the previous one hundred! Much of the knowledge gained from this recent work is presented in the new book.

Prior to the 2012 symposium, only nine species of black bass were recognized across North America. However, in 2013, several new basses were advanced in the literature as species candidates, e.g., Warrior Bass and Chattahoochee Bass. In this book, three additional cryptic taxa – i.e., the Choctaw Bass, Bartram's Bass and the Cuatro Ciénegas Bass – are

characterized with molecular and/or morphological techniques. Threats to the diversity and genetic integrity of these and other endemic black basses, caused by fish introductions and subsequent hybridization, are also detailed.

Multiple conservation and habitat restoration projects are highlighted



for vulnerable populations of Guadalupe, Shoal, and Redeye Bass in their native stream habitats. As detailed in *Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation*, several black bass species have real conservation needs that must be addressed to prevent them from going extinct.

Announcements will be made this spring on the AFS Listserv, Website, and Newsletters, when the book becomes available.

In addition to hard copy books, AFS will offer PDF downloads of individual book chapters.

Online: <http://fisheries.org/bookstore>

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High Honors: Cope and Pollock Appointed Distinguished Professors

Two North Carolina State University professors and long-time Southern Division AFS members have recently been awarded the highest honors in the NCSU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences! Drs. Greg Cope (Past NC Chapter President) and Ken Pollock are the newest William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professors. These endowed professorships recognize “great scholars, great teachers, great scientists, and great interpreters.”

These two professors are internationally renowned leaders and represent over a half-century of experience and service in the fields of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecology. Below are some



Left to Right: Applied Ecology Department Head, Harry Daniels; current Distinguished Professor, JoAnn Burkholder; and the two newest Distinguished Professors, Ken Pollock and Greg Cope.

highlights of their respective accomplishments that support this great recognition. Congratulations to Greg and Ken on this well-deserved honor!

Dr. Greg Cope — Dr. Cope's works in toxicology research, teaching, and extension have led to major advances in the science, conservation, and management of endangered freshwater fauna; strengthened national environmental policy with benefit to all Americans; and major progress in agromedicine and health and safety protection of farmworkers across the state, nation, and world. He directs the single largest university program worldwide that is dedicated to understanding and mitigating the effects of toxic pollutants on sentinel imperiled freshwater mussels and fish. His research team's contributions have been

highlighted by scientific societies and by a wide array of state and federal resource agencies. He has published over 120 scholarly papers, books, and book chapters associated with his research and extension programs and has mentored 25 graduate students and served on another 30 graduate committees. Under his leadership as Coordinator of the NC Agromedicine Institute, agromedicine programs have substantially improved the occupational health safety of rural populations involved in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Dr. Cope exemplifies the highest level of excellence as a scholar, scientist, teacher, and interpreter, and also has an outstanding record of service to his college, university, state, and country.

Dr. Ken Pollock — As an internationally recognized authority on the application of mark-recapture theory to real-world problems in wildlife conservation, Dr. Pollock has developed sampling methodologies that are used throughout the world in game and non-game fisheries and wildlife research and management. He has advised and trained 65 graduate students, and served on over 250 graduate student committees in his 30+ years at NCSU. Many of these students have gone on to leadership positions in academia, private industry, and with fisheries and wildlife management agencies where they have applied their training to the management of species as diverse as striped-bass, terrestrial salamanders, migratory songbirds, and endangered species such as Florida manatees and Cape Fear shiners. Dr. Pollock is the author or co-author of five books and over 200 peer-reviewed publications in the fields of applied wildlife ecology and statistics, several of which have received prestigious national and international awards from the Wildlife Society, the American Statistical Association, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His scholarly and academic accomplishments have had an enormous impact on his field of research and our society.