



## President's message

by Randy Rushin

Thank you all for supporting TCAFS 2017 meeting in Corpus Christi! By all measures, this conference was a smashing success! All of the committees did a FANTASTIC job putting together the meeting. I had always heard that the hardest part of being President was planning the meeting. Well, for me at least, it was not that difficult because we have such OUTSTANDING people planning and coordinating every fine detail to make the convention extra-special. I can never thank you enough for all of your hard work this past year.

Here are some high points from the meeting:

- 77 presentations; 43 by students
- 40 Posters – (double our normal); 20 by students
- 46 students paired with mentors for the luncheon
- 10 scholarships at \$1,500 awarded (4 more than usual) plus Clark Hubbs Award of \$500
- New **RECORD** fundraising – beat the record from last year by 40%!
- New **RECORD** attendance – 292 attended the banquet

As I've repeatedly said, our chapter has a unique culture that supports the growth and development of our student and professional members. We are dedicated to helping the next generation be successful contributors to the field of fisheries science. Our chapter is a forward-looking organization that is on a path of constant improvement - including meetings, presentations, collaborations, and fisheries science.

With those ideas mind, it's time to start planning our 2018 meeting. And speaking of 2018... Let's all pull together and **OBLITERATE all of these records from 2017!** Going forward, we want to make a few changes to our processes. Our goal is to be completely PAPERLESS next year – online abstract submissions, online registration, online programs, etc. Since this will be our first time doing everything online, we can use your help. We would appreciate your recommendations for apps/services for making this process a simple and smooth transition. As a conservation-minded organization, we need to lead by example and paperless is a good start.



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Guess what? It takes a lot of work to plan and host a meeting, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** I hope you will consider volunteering. If you even have the slightest interest in joining a committee, please let me or a committee chair know.

**This is YOUR organization and it takes everyone to make TCAFS successful.** As a member of TCAFS, you are part of a team – and every person on our team plays an important role. And I'm truthful when I say this – every contribution helps – regardless of how little you think it is. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

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## President-Elect's message

*by Michael Homer*



Hello, Texas Chapter! I hope you all are excited for what is in store for 2017. First, I am quite honored to serve TCAFS as its President-Elect in 2017. After serving as Secretary-Treasurer for the last two years, I am pleased to hand the reins over to Niki Ragan and take on this role. I would like to thank Mike Morgan for his willingness to run for the President-Elect position as well and for his dedication and service to the Texas Chapter by serving as the Scholarships Committee chair for the last 10 years. I have big shoes to fill from our other past-presidents and our current President, Randy Rushin, for their leadership and successful meetings. We had record attendance of 292 people in Corpus Christi as well as had two years in a row of record fundraising. For these successes, thank you to all of you who attended the annual meeting as well as to those who served to make these successes possible. Finally, thank you all for supporting me and believing in my abilities to lead the chapter as its next president.

I have already hit the ground running planning the next annual meeting. I am pleased to announce that the chapter will be venturing to College Station for the 2018 annual meeting. Our 2018 annual meeting will be held at the Hilton College Station & Conference Center from January 25-27, 2018. The hotel is situated adjacent to downtown College Station, is within walking distance of many restaurants and within minutes of Northgate and downtown Bryan. Currently, the hotel is undergoing renovations that are expected to be completed by the beginning of the 2017 college football season, and the meeting spaces and on-site amenities are outstanding. More details about the meeting will be sent out through the newsletter, email list serve, and the TCAFS Facebook page. For more information about the hotel, please visit

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-college-station-and-conference-center-CLLCHHF/index.html>

Over the years, I have very much enjoyed being involved in TCAFS. My involvement is a way I can give back to the society that has afforded me so much personally and professionally. I encourage all of you who have not been involved in a committee before or recently to step up if the time is available to you. Many committees are always looking for helping hands to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the chapter. A list of our current Committee chairs and Chapter officers can be found on the last page of the newsletter – feel free to reach out to them for more information. For the upcoming meeting, the chapter could use help seeking items for the raffles and silent auction, as well as sponsorships and exhibitors are needed for the annual meeting. The chapter has committed to hosting the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) meeting in January 2019 to be held at Moody Gardens in Galveston, TX. Dan Daugherty has willingly volunteered and been appointed by the EXCOM to serve as the 2019 SDAFS meeting chairman, and he is seeking individuals to take on planning committee chairperson roles as well as to serve on the committees. For those of you



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seeking opportunities to get involved in the planning efforts for the 2019 SDAFS meeting, reach out to Dan ([dan.daugherty@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:dan.daugherty@tpwd.texas.gov) ). Lastly, don't be a stranger. Feel free to reach out to me ([michael.homer@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:michael.homer@tpwd.texas.gov) ) if you would like to become more involved with the chapter.

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## *TCAFS to host the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society*

### *- we need your help!*

It's official ... the Texas Chapter will be hosting the annual meeting of the Southern Division of AFS from January 24th through 27th, 2019, at Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa and Convention Center on Galveston Island. We will hold our 2019 TCAFS annual meeting in conjunction with this meeting. Now that the venue has been selected and the contract signed, the detailed planning begins.

As a TCAFS member, we encourage you to consider volunteering your time and talents in the planning of this meeting. We are in need of individuals willing to serve any of a number of roles on committees responsible for a variety of needs, including workshops, fundraising, local arrangements, social events, technical program and symposia, audio/visual, finance, registration, advertising, webpage maintenance and others. If you have questions, or are interested in serving your chapter and society by serving on one or more of these committees, please contact Dan Daugherty, TCAFS host chapter meeting chair ([Dan.Daugherty@TPWD.Texas.gov](mailto:Dan.Daugherty@TPWD.Texas.gov) ; [830] 866-3356x211). We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Dan Daugherty  
Kevin Storey  
Ken Kurzawski  
SDAFS 2019 Oversight Committee



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# Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards - 2016

by Michele Nations, Awards Committee Chair

The Corpus Christi TCAFS meeting had some interesting awards given. For instance, Matthew Acre received three different awards: the Harry Tennison Scholarship, the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, and the Outstanding Fisheries Student Award. Further information concerning these awards will be given throughout the newsletter, but I wanted to put the spotlight on him for his accomplishments and share with you some of what the person who nominated him provided.

## **Fisheries Administration** – Thomas Lang, TPWD Inland Fisheries



Tom Lang has been an enthusiastic addition to the TPWD Inland Fisheries Management Office in Wichita Falls since 2012 to the present. He has served on the Diversified Community Angling Committee, established three Friends of Reservoirs Chapters, and designed, implemented and directed agency outreach activities while cultivating numerous relationships with media, business, and organization leaders. Tom and his staff have conducted habitat enhancement projects at Possum Kingdom Lake, Lake Arrowhead, and Lake Wichita and have garnered two nationally competitive grants to support those efforts. He also represents TPWD in a leadership role on the City of Wichita Falls Lake Wichita Revitalization Committee. An interesting note about Tom's

experiences – he had been in Texas two and a half years before he got to see his lakes with water in them. Tom Lang loves what he does – working with people to build the fisheries in his management district and throughout the state. One of his favorite quotes is by Theodore Roosevelt: Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

## **Fish Culture** – Donovan Patterson, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Donovan was hired as a Hatchery Biologist at TFFC almost two years ago. Since that time he has managed the pond culture program at TFFC very effectively and has learned about operations at TFFC in general. TFFC has had a very good year during 2016 in terms of Florida Largemouth Bass production (stocked 907,000 fry and 4,390,000 fingerlings) and Channel Catfish production (stocked 26,783 fingerlings). In addition to being busy with fish culture activities, Donovan took time to work on answering a question posed by the Hatchery Research Coordinator. He has compiled data from all Florida Largemouth Bass production ponds over the last ten years and has analyzed the data statistically using several methods with help from John Taylor and others staff within TPWD. As a result of this analysis, TFFC will propose to stock first cycle ponds with 125,000 to 150,000 fry per acre and





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to stock second cycle ponds with 100,000 to 125,000 fry per acre. This stocking schedule should improve consistency of the numbers and quality of fingerlings produced and assure that all Florida Largemouth Bass ponds are harvested before the fourth of July to avoid the very unpredictable production results that have been encountered with ponds harvested after the fourth of July-

**Fisheries Education** – Dr. Matthew Chumchal, Texas Christian University



Dr. Matt Chumchal has been a professor at TCU since 2007, first as an assistant professor and then as an Associate professor. He is an aquatic ecologist specializing in mercury contamination of fish and aquatic organisms and the bioaccumulation and trophic transfer of mercury. Together with Ray Drenner, he leads the Aquatic Ecology Lab and works with his students in a variety of ecosystems including lakes, rivers, wetlands, and the Gulf of Mexico. Using a variety of fisheries and ecological techniques, which include otolith and stable isotope analyses, they seek to find answers as to why some organisms have elevated concentrations of mercury. Outstanding contributions through his work at TCU consist of

seeking grants to assist students' studies, helping with thesis work, serving on committees, and encouraging students to participate in TCAFS meetings. He motivates his students to be the best they can be. Matt, at left, is shown holding the three awards he won with Ray Drenner with his certificates for his support as co-author.

**Fisheries Management** – John Tibbs, TPWD Inland Fisheries

John Tibbs has been a District Fisheries Management Biologist for the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division for over 19 years and is highly respected by his staff, peers and supervisors. John is a very knowledgeable and dedicated fisheries biologist who routinely goes above and beyond what is expected to manage the fisheries in his district. John has fulfilled the leadership role in helping to set the direction of catfish management in Texas. He was instrumental in getting the TPWD Statewide Catfish Management Plan entitled "A Vision for Catfish in Texas" completed and published in 2016, which will provide a diversity of high-quality catfish angling opportunities by creating, expanding, or maintaining fisheries for Channel, Blue, and Flathead catfishes in waters across the state. John is also a lead investigator on a special project entitled "Evaluation of an experimental 30-to 45-inch slot length limit for blue catfish in three Texas reservoirs."



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## **Fisheries Student** – *Matthew Acre, Texas Tech University*

Matt Acre is currently a PhD student at Texas Tech University. He is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources where his work is funded by a state wildlife grant being administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). His doctoral research project titled "Assessing the effects of flow regime variation on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, TX" will have direct implications to state and federal natural resource management and policy decisions that will ultimately benefit all Texans. During his project, Matt has developed exceptional leadership skills

and is proficient in planning, coordination, and communication with graduate students, state governmental agencies and research partners, such as TPWD and the Lower Colorado River Authority. Matt has delivered presentations on his research at the annual Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, the Southern Division of AFS mid-year meeting, and at the Larval Fish Conference in Quebec.



## **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** – *Abe Moore, TPWD Video Producer, Communications Division*



As a video producer with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Communications Division, Abe Moore educates and inspires Texans to care about Texas' wild things and wild places, and this is particularly true for the videos Abe has produced on wide-ranging topics in fish and fisheries. Whether it is profiling fishing opportunities for Alligator Gar or Guadalupe Bass... or spotlighting the need for natural flow regimes on regulated rivers... or profiling TPWD's response to fish kills resulting from oil spills in east Texas... or highlighting native fish monitoring in west Texas streams, Abe shows sincere interest, patience, and enthusiasm with an incredible skill for storytelling that absolutely does right by fish, biologists, and anglers alike. He is a

pleasure to work with, and we are lucky to have someone with his unique skill sets so passionately interested in the conservation of fisheries resources. Abe is fantastic at capturing the passion/enthusiasm of the biologists and for telling complex stories in a way that viewers are able to connect with as to why our work matters and the importance of the fisheries biologists' roles are in the conservation of Texas fisheries resources. Through this work, Abe provides an invaluable service within the professional fisheries community and advances the mission of TCAFS by promoting the conservation of fisheries resources and showcasing the important work of fisheries professionals.



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**Special Recognition in Fisheries Research** – Dr. Timothy Bonner, Texas State University

Dr. Timothy H. Bonner is a leader in the field of fish ecology, which is illustrated by 74 publications, including 38 manuscripts that have been published within the past 5 years. Dr. Bonner has published research in 30 journals, co-authored 2 books, including the “Freshwater Fishes of Texas” and has over 850 citations. He has contributed to aquatic science literature which has been almost exclusively within the state of Texas but has had an impact that reaches far beyond state lines.

Through his research, he has advanced knowledge within fish community ecology, life histories, population dynamics, and reproductive ecology. He is passionate about research and about sharing it with others which is evident in the graduation of 39 masters and doctoral students. Since beginning his graduate career with his master’s degree at Texas State University, earning his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University, and now currently holding a professorship position at Texas State University, Dr. Bonner has become a leader in fisheries research in the state of Texas.



**Special Recognition in Fisheries Technical Support** – TPWD Inland Fisheries Data Analysis and Data Administration Group (DAAG)- Chris Cummings, Sarah Haas, Danny Lewis, John Taylor, & Jimmy White.



Since 2011 the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division Data Analysis and Administration Group has been instrumental in providing guidance and assistance to the TPWD River Studies Program in an initiative to organize and catalogue historical and current river and stream fisheries and habitat data into a server-based database platform called “GoFish”. The team has worked patiently with multiple River Studies’ staff to create a system for data storage and to consistently implement changes throughout this process to ensure that River Studies’ and Inland Fisheries Division’s needs are met. Jimmy White (former TPWD employee), Danny Lewis and Chris Cummings took the lead in behind-the-scenes programming to create a user

interface that facilitates efficient data entry, organization, and extraction, thus allowing all staff to more effectively and efficiently manage and report their data. John Taylor and Sarah Haas have routinely met with staff to assist with data management and extraction and have provided comments and recommendations to assist in this collaborative process..

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**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** – Randi Wayland, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Hall of Fame

Randi (Ron-dee) Wayland has a lifelong passion for boating and fishing that she has helped instill into thousands of students. Among her many roles are boating safety instructor for over 20 years, area chief of the TPWD boater education program, chairwoman of the Freshwater Fishing Advisory Board, past president of the Texas Association of Bass Clubs, board member of Texas Black Bass Unlimited, and inductee into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. In addition to helping organize numerous fishing tournaments, Randi has been heavily involved in the Toyota Texas Bass Classic for the last ten years.



Here is a broader view of Randi’s accomplishments: served 15+ years as a Governor-appointed member of the TPWD Inland Fisheries Advisory Board (several years as Vice-Chair and currently serving as the Chair); seven years as the president of Texas Association of Bass Clubs and is currently acting as an advisor; teaching basic and advanced fishing classes for the TPWD Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program; judge for the Toyota Texas Bass Classic since its beginning (10 years); twenty years as Area Chief for TPWD state mandated Boater Education Program; board member of Texas Black Bass Unlimited over 10 years and is currently the secretary; Texas Outdoors Partners charter member representing more than 4 state-wide fishing organizations; board member of SMART (Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation); public school teacher in Texas for 30 years; Adjunct Professor at San Antonio College for 45 years teaching water safety; taking challenged kids and adults fishing for more than 20 years; 2016 inductee into The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame; and started fishing as soon as she could hold a pole (Her dad built her a little row boat at age 4, and she hasn’t been without a boat since then!). Her greatest joy is to see a child (any age) catch their first fish and be happy that she had a little hand in making that happen. She even caught a 250-pound Alaska halibut on her 77th birthday, but one of her main claims to fame is that she has a marvelous sense of humor and has enough stories to fill that boat of hers..





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**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** – Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation



The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation has been supporting the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program by donating a total of \$182,500 since 2005 (2005-2016). They share the TCAFS commitment to provide both educational and financial assistance to Texas Fisheries Students as they pursue their educational and career goals. Both organizations are dedicated in fostering excellence in education and recognize the future of Texas fisheries depends on young people who will eventually be leading the way to manage these important resources. Family members also support us by coming to our meetings, which is very much appreciated. All TCAFS members and scholarship winners (both past and present)

owe them a great debt of gratitude. (They were not able to make it to our meeting – Dave Terre will present the award at a later date.)

**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** – Sportsman’s Club of Fort Worth

Founded in the 1950’s by Harry Tennison, Charlie Stephens, Paul Leonard, Jr., and Mickey Schmid, the Sportsmen’s Club of Fort Worth (SCFW) is a long-standing, all volunteer, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that devotes its resources to outdoor and wildlife charitable and educational activities with an emphasis on serving area youth and youth organizations. The purpose of the Club is to (a) encourage conservation of wildlife and good sportsmanship and safety in hunting, fishing and related activities, and (b) encourage and develop in youth an appreciation and enjoyment of wildlife and the outdoors, including supporting youth involvement in hunting, fishing, wildlife conservation and related activities.



The SCFW has funded two fisheries student scholarships each year, from 2011 through 2016, in honor Harry Tennison; one of their founding club members. These 12 scholarships, totaling \$18,000, have been paid directly to the student’s university to help fund costs for attending college, thereby helping them attain their educational and career goals in fisheries. (They were not able to make it to our meeting – Dave Terre will present the award at a later date.)

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## 2016 Student Scholarship Awards

### **TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Cody Craig**



Cody Craig is earning his Ph.D. at Texas State University. Questions about distributions and what controls naturally as well as anthropogenic effects have continued to dominate his research topics. The future of aquatic resources in the world will be in part, dependent on how current and future generations use and protect current resources. Cody believes there is a delicate but obtainable balance between the needs of the environment and the needs of society. The philosophy, which drives the majority of his research and curiosity in natural resource conservation, is to find that balance between the needs of society and the needs aquatic systems, so that aquatic systems will not deviate from their natural trajectory, and future generations can enjoy and appreciate them.

### **TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Kesley Gibson**

Kesley Gibson is earning her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. Kesley would like to inspire and guide future students in accomplishing critical research by working closely with management to provide science supported solutions to the problems facing our oceans, including declining fisheries, ocean acidification, and degraded habitat. She has taken advantage of media and outreach opportunities to communicate these concerns on many occasions to a wide range of audience members. Her most recent work involves shark tracking. Previous work includes acute toxicity of freshwater mussels and snails.



### **TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Friedrich Keppeler**



Friedrich Keppeler is earning his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. Since the field of fisheries science is very dynamic, he is used to looking for new frameworks and techniques that enhance the precision and the reliability of his conclusions. He has broad goals in his scientific career: to propose and test ecological theories with fishes using simulations, experiments, and field studies, to address the current crises that we have been living in terms of biological loss, and to divulge the results of his research or his ideas to the non-specialist audience. He plans to do this through social media (e.g., blogs, website, radio, and tv) and books. To Friedrich, this is a good way to engage the local population in important ecological issues and divulge scientific knowledge.



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### **TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Hailey Boeck**

Hailey Boeck is earning her M.S. at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. She has a strong work/volunteer background in Texas, Alabama, and Georgia. Hailey has a history of memberships and active positions in scientific societies and many other groups. Her current Thesis research is directed to assist the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in guiding science-based policy for movement of oysters between Texas bay systems, especially in relation to the potential use of hatchery-produced oysters for aquaculture in Texas. Hailey is interested in becoming a researcher and/or professor in a field-centered environment, and is interested in genetics and migratory behaviors.



### **TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Elizabeth Hunt**



Elizabeth Hunt is earning her M.S. at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. Her current research allows her to look at species from a genetic standpoint and allows for fine scale resolution of species relationships and the biogeography of the northern Gulf of Mexico. This research is directly supported by the advent of new molecular techniques and the ability to obtain large amounts of molecular data. Upon completion of her Masters, she plans to move on to obtain a PhD, focusing on the molecular ecology of fishes as it relates to species relationships and gene flow in the marine environment. She is not only interested in molecular ecology, but also the biology, ecology, and diversification of fishes. Ultimately, Elizabeth would like to conduct research that will provide the best available data to managers and policy makers to assist with fisheries management decisions for long-term species and stock sustainability.

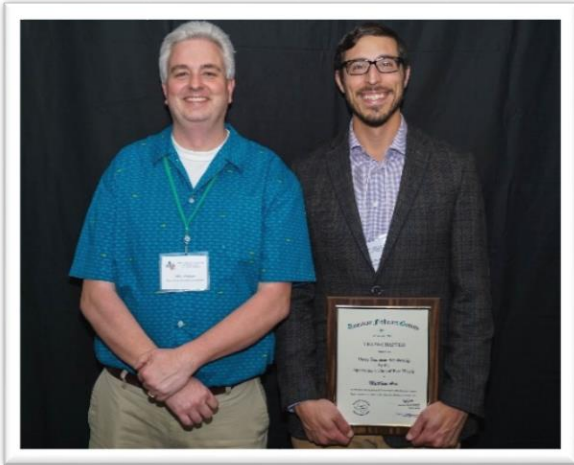
### **TCAFS Scholarship: B.S. – Taylor Cubbage**

Taylor Cubbage is currently a sophomore at Texas A&M University at Galveston. She is double majoring in Marine Fisheries and Marine Biology, and is expected to graduate in May of 2019. Taylor is an artist, and has used her talents to educate the public on issues related to fisheries and environments. She also donates artwork for fisheries related fundraising at silent auctions. She is actively involved in several voluntary leadership positions, and has interest in studying the process of raising marine species to supplement wild populations. Taylor wishes to pursue her passions of science and art by being able to perform field/lab fisheries research while communicating her findings to the public through easy to understand artistic interpretations. Her website is [www.tlctreasures.weebly.com](http://www.tlctreasures.weebly.com).



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## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: Ph.D. – Matthew Acre**



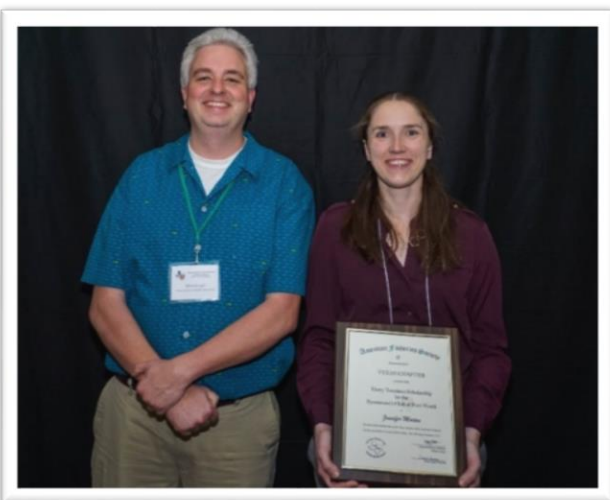
Matthew Acre is earning his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University. He is currently investigating the effects of flow regime variation on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, Texas. He is monitoring movements via radio telemetry and submersible ultrasonic receivers. This work will provide critical information for policy makers charged with managing both species conservation and water resource needs. Matthew plans to work at the global/international level as well as here at home in Texas to integrate cutting edge research with policy in order to develop and implement effective conservation, management, and restoration actions.

## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Ethan Getz**

Ethan Getz is earning his M.S. at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. He has participated in research and internships in Texas, Wyoming, and North Carolina. Ethan believes there is an inherent value to wilderness, and it is important for us to preserve some aquatic systems as they occur naturally. Fisheries science is appealing to him because it does not solely focus on resource use or conservation, but is a combination of the two. His lifelong passion will fuel a productive career in fisheries science. Recent and past research includes work with red snapper and telemetry tagging, and turbidity effects on surf-zone juvenile fishes.



## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Jennifer Morton**



Jennifer Morton is earning her M.S. at Texas A&M University. Through work and research, she narrowed her focus from a broad interest in conservation to a concentration in aquatic resources, and freshwater mussels, in particular. Her employment with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources helped to cement that interest for her by participating in aquatic surveys that informed varied management decisions, and was involved in work that impacted management decisions across the state. Jennifer has always been interested in the outdoors and conservation, but this was the first time she saw the implementation of policies based on work that she had done. More recently, Jennifer has been working as a Research Assistant with the Freshwater Mussel Research Group at the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (TAMU-IRNR). With the Freshwater Mussel Group, she has

been able to combine both the research-driven focus of her early college career and the practical management applications of her work.



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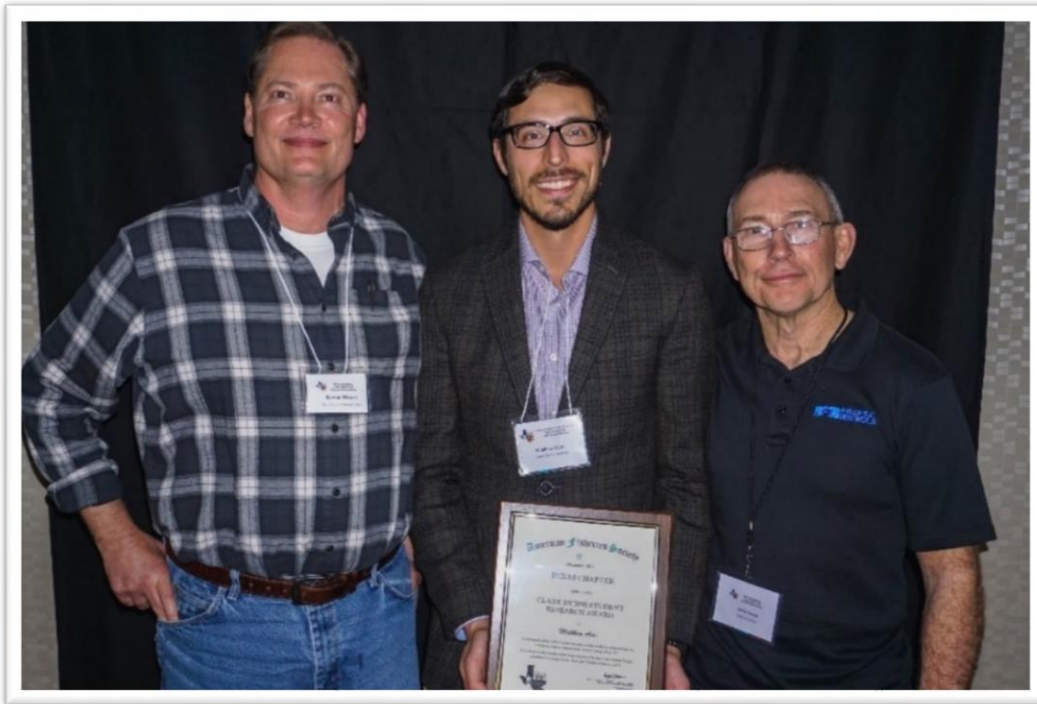
## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Erin Reed**



Erin Reed is earning her M.S. at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. While in Texas, her short term goal is to make scientists and our science more approachable to the public. Through the lab project to Map Spawning Seatrout Aggregations in Port Aransas, she plans to bridge the gap between local fishers and researchers to encourage open communication about their beloved resource, its habitat, and the importance in learning more about their resources to maximize longevity of a fishery such as the Spotted Seatrout in Texas. Erin's long term career goal is to use her graduate degree as a Fisheries Scientist to continue in fisheries research. Currently, Erin wants to continue in the scientific direction of her thesis work by exploring the effects that climate variability has on today's fisheries.

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## **Clark Hubbs Student Research Award – Matthew Acre**



Matthew Acre (center) receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Kevin Mayes (left), of the Clark Hubbs Committee and Dave Buzan (right), TCAFS president. Matt's research will assess the effects of flow regime variation on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, Texas.

## 2017 Student Scholarship award winners



Endowments Chair Dave Terre (left) and Scholarship Committee Chair Mike Morgan (right) pose with the 10 TCASF student scholarship winners of 2017. The students from left to right are Hailey Boeck, Elizabeth Hunt, Friedrich Keppeler, Kesley Gibson, Ethan Getz, Jennifer Morton, Cody Craig, Erin Reed, Matthew Acre, and Taylor Cubbage.

## 2017 Best Presentation and Poster Awards

### **Professional poster:**

"Impacts of Deepwater Horizon crude oil exposure on the swimming performance of juvenile and young adult Mahi-Mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*)" by Mager, Ed, J. D. Stieglitz, D. Nelson, R. M. Heuer, G. K. Cox, D. D. Benetti, D. A. Crossley II, and M. Grosell, University of North Texas.

### **Professional presentation:**

"Are Age Estimates from Longnose Gar and Spotted Gar Sagittal Otoliths, Pectoral Fin Rays, and Branchiostegal Rays Accurate?" by Buckmeier, Dave, R. Snow, N. Smith, and C. Porter, TPWD, Inland Fisheries, Heart of the Hills Research Station.

### **Student poster:**

"Identifying the most efficient host fish for the Texas Fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*) for captive breeding" by Seagroves, L. A., and A. N. Schwalb, Texas State University.



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**Student presentation:**

"Movements and demographics of Blue Sucker in the lower Colorado River, Texas" by Acre, Matthew, T. B. Grabowski, D. Geeslin, and A. Pease, Texas Tech University.

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***Presentation Award Winners from 2015 Meeting in Kerrville***

**Best Professional Oral Presentation:**

"Disparity between state fish consumption advisory systems for methyl mercury and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommendations: a case study of the south central U.S." by Adams, K. J., R. W. Drenner, and Matt Chumchal (presenter) from Texas Christian University; and D. I. Donato from the US Geological Survey. Published in Environ Toxicol Chem 2016; 35:247-251"

**Best Professional Poster Presentation:**

"Effect of pond permanence on aquatic insect-mediated flux of methylmercury to terrestrial ecosystems" by Chumchal, Matt (primary author), R. W. Drenner, K. J. Adams, F. Greenhill, C. Gober, A. Courville, and L. Lossau, Texas Christian University

**Best Student Oral Presentation:**

"Nursery Origin and feeding ecology of juvenile Bull Sharks in the northwest Gulf of Mexico" by TinHan, Thomas C. (presenter), Jay R. Rooker, and R. J. David Wells, Texas A & M University – Galveston



*Michele Nations (far left, Awards Committee Chair) and Dave Buzan (right, TCAFS President) pose with the Best Student Presentation Award winner, Thomas TinHan*

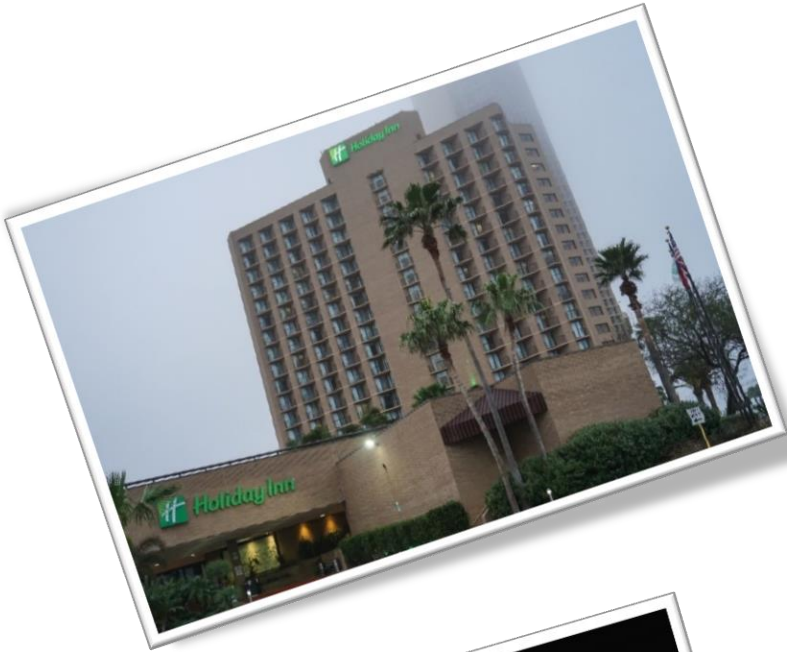
**Best Student Poster Presentation:**

"A scanning electron microscopy study of variation in tuberculation across the range of the Sand Shiner (*Notropis stramineus*)" by Pinion, A. (primary author), S. D. Kim, and K. W. Conway, TAMU – College Station

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## Postcards from Corpus





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# Texas Chapter AFS Annual Business Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2017

Holiday Inn - Downtown Marina, Corpus Christi, Texas

by Michael Homer, Secretary Treasurer

**Call to Order:** by TCAFS President Dave Buzan at 12:04 pm.

**Determination of a quorum:** Yes, by Michael Homer Jr.

**President's Report:** (Dave Buzan)

- Dave thanked everyone who attended the business meeting. He mentioned that Randy Rushin would give an announcement regarding the meeting prior to his report.
- Randy thanked everyone who attended, and he further mentioned that the meeting had a record attendance of 292 people.
- Dave recognized the hard work that was put into the meeting, which he personally thanked Randy Rushin. Dave stated that Randy Rushin had suggested the idea that was adopted to increase the exhibitor fee from \$75 to \$300, which helped raise additional funding for the chapter.
- Dave next turned the conversation over to Dan Daugherty to give an update on the TCAFS efforts to host the 2019 Southern Division of American Fisheries Society meeting. Dan Daugherty reaffirmed that TCAFS would be hosting the 2019 SDAFS meeting. The initial talks to host the meeting began at the 2016 annual meeting in Kerrville, TX where the chapter voted to host this meeting. Dan wanted to provide an update of what has happened since this meeting. Craig Bonds presented our proposal to host the meeting to the SDAFS officers at the 2016 annual meeting, which formally committed TCAFS to hosting in 2019. Dan solicited feedback from others at the SDAFS meeting in 2016 as well, which these individuals thought Austin would be a good choice. Various members of TCAFS participated on a conference call to discuss plans on optimal locations to host, which the consensus was to explore options in Austin as the preferred city, and San Antonio would be the second choice. San Antonio was the location for the 2006 SDAFS meeting, which was well attended. Dan volunteered to serve as the general meeting host chairman for the 2019 meeting, and he contacted Shawn Johnston (AFS Meeting Coordinator) at the AFS Parent Society office in Bethesda, MD for assistance and guidance for planning, handling contracts, and recommendations for other contacts to solicit advice. Mr. Johnston suggested contacting individuals with GAAFS to discuss their planning efforts for the past meeting held in Savannah, GA. The meeting held in Savannah had high attendance over 600 people. The GAAFS individuals sent the other records from that meeting. This information was used by Dan and Mr. Johnston to draft a Request for Proposals that was submitted to various venues and convention and visitors' bureaus. In October 2016, the RFP was sent to Austin and San Antonio, and they received no response. Dan followed up with the convention and visitors' bureaus in both cities to inquire why no bids had been offered. The overall response was that both cities are so popular and that the proposal was not competitive with others being submitted. Following this discussion, Dan revised the original RFP to make it more competitive. It was resubmitted to both cities, and only one response was received. The venue offered a response only offering accepting the proposal if the meeting was held 1/1-1/5/2019. Dan and Mr. Johnston began exploring other location options such as Corpus Christi and Houston, particularly, Galveston Island and the Woodlands, and RFPs were submitted. The Woodlands sent a proposal as well as Moody Gardens. Dan explained that the proposal from the Woodlands was too expensive for meeting space and menus, and the proposal submitted from Moody Gardens was very good, and they had offered many accommodations including unlimited federal/state rate rooms, a cheap rate for non-government meeting attendees, free parking, and Wi-Fi. Dan mentioned that TCAFS hosted a meeting at Moody Gardens in January 2012. Moody Gardens has also completed a \$25 million renovation and has an aquarium that has had a \$39 million renovation which it can be used to host a social. Dan was pleased to announced that TCAFS has signed a contract to host the 2019

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SDAFS meeting on January 24-27, 2019 at Moody Gardens. Dan mentioned it will be announced at the upcoming SDAFS meeting in Oklahoma City, OK. Dan stated that 25+ members are needed to chair and/or participate on committees for the planning efforts for the 2019 meeting. Dan plans to sit down with the OKAFS members that assisted with planning efforts for the 2017 SDAFS meeting to solicit advice. Dan encouraged the membership to get involved with the planning efforts. Dan Daugherty asked for any questions from the audience. Michele Nations asked for clarification on the 2019 SDAFS meeting dates, which Dan responded. Gene Wilde posed a statement that while he cannot assist, he mentioned that many members in the academic sector may be frustrated that Texas Parks and Wildlife Department gets most roles and recognition. Gene requested that more emails be sent out to encourage non-TPWD members to get involved with future leadership roles. Dan responded that last year at the chapter meeting, members were encouraged to get involved, and that he is not going to pressure those who do not wish to be involved to do so. He further stated that no member is unwelcome, and that those who choose not to be involved did so on their own will. Another member asked if a TCAFS meeting will be hosted concurrently with the 2019 SDAFS meeting, and Dan responded that the TCAFS business meeting will be a part of the 2019 SDAFS meeting. Dan requested that any interest members contact him to get involved with the planning efforts.

- Dave Buzan thanked Dan Daugherty for his efforts for planning the 2019 SDAFS meeting.

**SDAFS Officer Update:** (Craig Bonds)

- Craig stated that Dave Coughlin is the current SDAFS president and Wes Porak is the President-Elect, and Craig is the Vice President. Craig mentioned that SDAFS has had their website hacked and it has caused numerous issues. The website was shut down by SDAFS as a result. The SDAFS.org website is no longer accessible, and the new website is SD.Fisheries.org. All chapters and subunits will be required to create new websites which can be hosted by AFS or another server. SDAFS has a form that can be used to request that AFS create and host the website for a fee.
- SDAFS will be hosting the 2017 meeting in Oklahoma City, OK on February 2-5. Craig encouraged all to attend. Craig mentioned that SDAFS has established a Memorandum of Understanding with the FLAFS chapter for their hosting of the parent society meeting in Tampa, FL. In exchange for a \$5,000 up-front contribution for the meeting, SDAFS will share in 10% of the profits from the parent society annual meeting or they will pay back the \$5000 and more. The SDAFS has had some financial woes, and this MOU opportunity is a great opportunity for SDAFS to gain some extra income. Craig mentioned that the only sources of income for SDAFS are meeting profit shares and a portion of the parent society dues.
- At the parent society level, they are working to provide additional resources to chapters. They have hired Martha Wilson, the new communications expert; Beth Beard, a new IT staff member that has been assisting with the website issues; Shawn Johnston, a staff member that has been assisting chapters and divisions with meeting planning efforts; Jessica Mosely, the new AFS Director of Student and Professional Development, who is working to plan and develop continuing education workshops at annual meetings, as well as webinars, videos, and podcasts for educational opportunities for members. Tom Bigford and another person that are working to address how AFS responds to policies on critical issues, and they recently completed an issue paper on the incoming presidential administration and possible impacts to fisheries profession. The paper is available on the society's website. The society is also offering conference calling, Survey Monkey, email list serve, and investing services, and Shawn Johnston is the point of contact. Brandon Peoples ([peoples@clemsun.edu](mailto:peoples@clemsun.edu)), is managing the SDAFS list serve which is available for chapter communications. The procedures manual revisions for SDAFS are still being completed, but the division is working quickly to have those completed. Hae Kim, is going to continue to be the SDAFS webmaster and he has offered to serve as the parent society's webmaster for the parent society meeting in Tampa.
- Craig has been asked to remind the chapter to quickly submit the change of officer form once officers have been installed. The upcoming society meeting is in Tampa, FL on August 20-24, 2017; in 2018, Atlantic City, NJ; in 2019, Reno, NV; and in 2020, Columbus, OH. The 2020 meeting will be the AFS 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 2018 SDAFS meeting will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the exact dates



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are still pending. In 2019, TCAFS will be hosting. In 2020, the meeting will be hosted in Little Rock, AR by ARAFS.

- Gene Wilde stated that members should be nominated for SDAFS awards.

### **TCAFS Business Meeting Agenda**

- Dave Buzan mentioned that a draft agenda was being used for the meeting, and requested if any new items should be added as business to discuss after the committee reports. No members responded.

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:** (Michael Homer)

- Dave Buzan acknowledged Michael Homer for stepping beyond his role of Secretary-Treasurer with efforts on the Publicity/Exhibits Committee, soliciting donations, leading the design of the TCAFS t-shirts that were being sold, and assisting with the 2019 SDAFS meeting planning efforts.
- Michael Homer mentioned that the Secretary-Treasurer is not a one-person role, and that many individuals are needed to help this role operate effectively. Michael thanked Jimmie Green, Patsy Berry, and Annette Sudyka for assisting with the registration table; he thanked Stephanie George, Stephen Curtis, Gordon Linam, and the Texas A&M – Corpus Christi subunit for their efforts for the publicity and exhibits; he thanked the TPWD Inland Fisheries – Abilene team for their assistance with preparing folders and names badges for the 2017 annual meeting; he thanked Brian Van Zee, Dave Buzan, and Randy Rushin, and Dave Terre. Mike lastly thanked the Holiday Inn – Downtown Marina staff for their hospitality.
- Michael reported the financial statement for the 2016-2017 calendar year. The checking account balance as of 1/1/2016 was \$21,041.32. Total income in 2016 was \$41,117.92. In 2016, the chapter had \$29,363.77 of expenses. Roughly, \$2000 in contributions were given to different groups in 2016. In 2016, \$5,500 was deposited into the endowment account. The ending balance in the checking account on 12/31/2016 was \$27,295.47.
- Mike thanked everyone who attended the 2017 annual meeting. Mike reiterated that this meeting had a record attendance of 292 people, with 272 registered members and 20 other individuals who attended the banquet. Mike reported the results of the auctions and raffle sales. For the auction sales, \$5,685 was raised in the live auction and \$1,037 in the silent auction. Mike stated the balances are pending because of PayPal fees. In the card raffles, \$2,310 was raised but \$847 was deducted for the cost of the guns, leaving a total of \$1,463. In the \$1 raffle, \$2,056 was raised. A total \$11,088 was raised from the raffles and auctions, pending PayPal fees. Mike reported that approximately \$920 was invested to create the 105 t-shirts that were sold at the meeting, and 94 shirts were sold. Mike further stated that \$660 in profit is expected from those shirts. Mike thanked everyone for the support over the last two years as Secretary-Treasurer.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Awards & History – (Michele Nations)**

- Michele stated that she has served as chairperson for the History Committee and the Awards Committee as well as has managed the TCAFS Facebook page. Michele Nations stated that many individuals have helped her. She specifically mentioned Dave Buzan helping with the Awards Committee, and he noted that last year was the 40th anniversary of TCAFS. Michele mentioned that Randy Rushin had helped her quite a bit. Randy and Dave were proactive in coordinating committees to work together. Michele Nations mentioned that she had 47 judges for presentations and posters. Michele stated that she tried to assign judges in relation to possible interests and expertise. Michele noted problems with individuals not being able to stay for the entire meeting as well as with unwillingness to judge certain presentation types. Michele said 77 presentations were given at the meeting: 40 posters, and 37 oral presentations. Michele said that she is looking forward to having the judging results soon.
- Michele said that 11 awards were given at the banquet as well as best student and professional presentation awards. Michele used the Facebook page to promote the meeting, and she believes it was

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helpful. She is interested in using more Facebook Live. Michele is still working on the history document, and she thanked the chapter.

#### **Continuing Education** – (Lynn Wright)

- Lynn stated he was pleased with the continuing education sessions this year. Lynn thanked Dr. Ben Walther and Dr. Emma Clarkson. Lynn stated he is seeking ideas for next year.

#### **Editorial** – (Dan Daugherty and Allison Pease)

- Allison stated that the 2016 proceedings are running a bit behind schedule. Dan mentioned that 85 presentations that were submitted, and 77 were accepted. Dan thanked everyone who submitted an abstract to present at the meeting. Dan said that all student abstracts were accepted. Roughly 57% of oral presentations were students, and 50% of posters were students. Dan thanked all members who served as moderators for the sessions.

#### **Endowments** – (Dave Terre)

- Dave stated 2016 was a good year. Dave mentioned that TCAFS has a great relationship with the San Antonio River Authority, and they provide the Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship to a student TCAFS member. Chris Adkinson was the student selected for the internship in 2016, and applications for 2017 are now being accepted. Dave requested that any interested students apply. Dave said that members can learn more about the internship in the upcoming newsletter.
- Dave said the endowment saw about 5.8% growth in 2016. The endowment started off 2016 with about \$247,000. The donations received in 2016 were about \$20,500. Dave mentioned that \$9,500 in scholarships were paid out in 2016. Dave said the chapter invested about \$14,000 in the endowment in 2016, and the chapter earned \$14,900 in investments. Total costs of Edward Jones' services were about \$3,000. The ending balance for 2016 was approximately, \$276,000. Dave mentioned the TCAFS endowment is in great shape.
- Dave stated that the communications with the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth have improved, and they had decided to double the amount of their sponsored scholarships from two to four. Dave mentioned that these Harry Tennyson Scholarships are supported with a pass-through grant, which the money is paid directly to the scholarship recipient's school. Dave also stated that the number of Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundations-supported scholarships being awarded from the endowment was also increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000. In 2017, 10 scholarships were awarded totaling \$15,000.
- Dave thanked Jimmie and Kirk Green for maintaining communications and relations with the Hollandsworth Foundation.
- Dave thanked Kevin Mayes for his efforts for managing the Clark Hubbs Scholarship.
- Dave also recognized Mike Morgan and the TCAFS Scholarship Committee for their efforts, which he said he was able to assist with judging applications in 2016.

#### **Internet** – (John Taylor and Danny Lewis)

- Danny said John Taylor was unable to attend the business meeting. Danny further stated that Sarah Haas will be taking his chairperson seat on the Internet Committee because he will be retiring in 2017. Danny recognized there were some issues at the meeting, which should serve as good experience for Sarah as this transition takes place. Danny recalled the discussions regarding the website transition from the 2016 TCAFS business meeting. Danny mentioned that the committee was waiting on information for when the change to the website server needed to happen. The committee sent email communications to coordinate this effort, but on June 15, 2016 the website was suddenly unavailable. They were notified by SDAFS of the website being hacked and the division was redirecting internet traffic to their new site. On Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the TCAFS website was shut down, but the committee was able to get it online for a short duration to back-up necessary files and information. Danny mentioned that he wanted to have input from the membership at the 2017 meeting as to what decision TCAFS should make for choosing who should host the new website. Danny said that prior to the meeting, a page was created for TCAFS on the SDAFS server that displayed the 2017 meeting information, but it



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was not a complete site for TCAFS. Danny said that he has clarified with Mike Homer that the chapter has not had to pay for its website in the past. Danny said the committee has been trying to contact Beth Beard at the parent society about parent society website hosting costs, but he has not received a response. He is unsure as to if TCAFS would get a subdomain on the AFS server, but he expects the chapter would be paying for this service. Danny expects that the chapter may need to pay \$350 for website setup and \$20 per month on the AFS server. Danny said the chapter may need to also explore an independent hosting option. With an independent host, the company would provide more direct administrative support, which may not be guaranteed with a parent society-hosted site. The question as to whether TCAFS will be required to pay the parent society for hosting the site or not remains unanswered. Danny mentioned that the website changes are a transition for the entire society.

- Gene Wilde stated that eventually the expectation of the chapters will be to have their websites hosted by the parent society.
- Michele Nations asked if the chapter were to choose a parent society-hosted webpage, would TCAFS have editing capabilities. Danny Lewis responded that he is still seeking an answer for her question. Danny stated that the current website on the SDAFS does not allow for a TCAFS stand-alone WordPress capability. Danny said WordPress is preferred because it is simple for operation and facilitating website management.
- Gene Wilde motioned that TCAFS host its website on the parent society server.
- Danny Lewis called for a vote from the chapter.
- Craig Bonds requested that Danny Lewis clarify how the website would be handled by AFS. Danny Lewis clarified that the web address could be sdafs.fisheries.org/txafs or txafs.org. Danny recommended that going with the more cost-effective option would likely be the more-preferred option.
- Ken Kurzawski said that he and Craig Bonds would be happy to provide clarification for the society procedures because they serve on the governing board.
- Dan Daugherty raised that a motion was still present on the floor. Dan further asked for clarification on the costs to the chapter. Gene Wilde responded that there will be a cost regardless of whatever decisions is made and that this will be a transitional period for the society as the website issues are resolved.
- Dave Buzan reaffirmed a motion was presented by Gene Wilde previously. Dave Buzan repeated the motion by Gene Wilde was to host the TCAFS website on the society webpage. Ken Kurzawski seconded the motion. The membership voted and the motion passed 32 yes, 0 No, 7 abstained.

#### **Issues** – (Niki Ragan)

- Niki stated that she and Mark hope to be doing more with the committee in 2017. She requested that the members provide any ideas to them about issues that should be considered.

#### **Membership** – (Debbie Wade; not present)

- No report.

#### **Newsletter Editor** – (Kevin Story)

- Kevin stated he is going to try to get more newsletters out in 2017. He requested that members submit any articles of interest to him. Kevin will be sending an email with the due date for the next newsletter.
- Dave Buzan stated to the chapter that Kevin has been a key component to informing the chapter and that he recently served as a president to TCAFS. Dave requested that the chapter recognize him for his service.

#### **Nominating** – (Dan Bennett)

- Dan announced that candidates for President were Mike Morgan and Michael Homer.
- Dan stated the candidates for Secretary-Treasurer were Niki Ragan, Lynn Wright, and Natalie Goldstrohm.
- Dan stated a total of 85 members voted, which 66 chose to vote online.
  - The 2017 TCAFS Election winners were:

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- President-Elect: Michael Homer
  - Secretary-Treasurer: Niki Ragan
  - Dan asked that any nominations or interested persons for running for an EXCOM position contact him.

**Pond Management** – (Greg Binion; not present)

- Dan Daugherty gave the report on Greg Binion's behalf. Dan stated that the committee has begun the process of reviewing the pond management manual and identifying areas that could be revised as well as new items to be added. Committee members have provided excellent feedback, and a meeting among the committee members will be planned for the coming months.

**Publicity/Exhibits** – (Stephen Curtis and Stephanie George)

- Dave Buzan stated that the chapter recognize Stephanie and Stephen for taking leadership on the committee. Dave mentioned that the committee position was previously held by Jake Norman, and that it had a history of having two persons involved for many years. Dave mentioned the workload for this committee is high, and the committee was reinstated in 2016, and Stephanie and Stephen took on the leadership roles on this committee.
- Stephen reiterated that the workload for the committee was high, but over 20 members assisted by soliciting donations and providing support for sponsorships, auctions, and raffles. Stephen thanked the chapter for the support and requested that members continue to provide names of potential donors to the committee.
- Allison Pease suggested taking the "Buy It Now" price off the silent auction items sheets to increase earning potential.
- Gene Wilde questioned how TCAFS could reach out to larger corporate sponsorships. Mike Homer stated that these larger corporations have an online sponsorship application, but getting a response and submitting the application in a timely manner can be challenging. Dave Buzan stated that TCAFS explored larger sponsorships last year, and that we are still trying to improve our connections with these companies to achieve their support.
- A raffle for a gar fish print was held by Stephen and Stephanie. Evan Cartabiano won the item.
- Dave Buzan acknowledged Natalie Goldstrohm's role on the committee for assisting with thank you letters. Dave also noted that the chapter has many members whose artwork has been popular in the fundraisers. Dave requested that the chapter continue to solicit donations of artwork from members.

**Scholarships** – (Mike Morgan)

- Dave Buzan stated that the chapter has two important jobs which are focused on providing students with scholarship opportunities to students and advancing fisheries education. Dave thanked Mike Morgan for his service to the Scholarship Committee for many years.
- Mike Morgan stated that the committee received 25 applications, which 10 scholarships were awarded. Mike stated that this is a new record for the number of scholarships awarded. The scholarships were given to 1 undergraduate, 5 Masters, and 4 PhD. students at the banquet.
- Mike thanked the members of the committee who helped with scoring applications: Dave Terre, Christine Jensen, Jennifer Butler. Mike noted he had been the chairman of the committee for the last 10 years, and he is stepping down. He further stated that Jennifer Butler is interested in chairing the committee and he hopes that the EXCOM will consider her for this role.
- Mike thanked the chapter for allowing him to serve for the last 10 years.

**Student Outreach** – (Joe Beach)

- Joe Beach offered thanks to many members for their support of the committee.
- Joe mentioned that Tarleton State University and University of Texas – San Antonio are interested in starting new subunits and that he would be working with them.
- Joe mentioned that Brandon Peoples at Clemson University and with SDAFS has been sending him scholarship and professional opportunity announcements which he has been distributing through the



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TCAFS list serve. Joe has also been submitting such opportunities to him as well to forward on the SDAFS list serve.

- Joe also thanked Michele Nations for distributing scholarship information and internships on the TCAFS Facebook page.
- Joe mentioned he has many campus visits still scheduled, which he plans to promote TCAFS.
- Joe mentioned that the San Antonio River Authority Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship will be soon accepting applications, and he will be sending out the announcements soon.
- Michele asked how many people participated in the Student Mentor Luncheon. Joe stated that 42 mentors and 48 students participated in the luncheon.

**Student Subunit Chapter Reports** – No reports from TAMU, TTU, or TX A&M-Corpus Christi.

**Old Business** (Dave Buzan):

- Dave asked if there was any old business to discuss but no one brought about any issues to talk about.

**Installation of new TCAFS Officers**

- Dave Buzan presented the official TCAFS skeg as a symbol of the passing of chapter leadership to Randy Rushin.
- Randy presented Dave Buzan with an AFS President's Plaque and thanked him for the great work he had done as President and took over the position.
- Dave Buzan thanked the chapter for the opportunity to serve TCAFS, and that his involvement has been one of the most fun opportunities he has had professionally.

**New Business** (Randy Rushin):

- Randy thanked the chapter for their support and that he has been a member of TCAFS for 20 years.
- Randy mentioned that he would like to thank everyone who served on a committee during the 2017 meeting planning efforts.
- Randy mentioned that he would like TCAFS to start making more documentation for communications and for the meeting registration and programs available in online formats. He would like 2017 to be the year we begin to make these changes.
- Randy requested that members provide feedback to him regarding the meeting planning efforts.
  - Randy acknowledged Dan Daugherty for his efforts for planning 2019 SDAFS meeting. He thanked Danny Lewis for his service on the Internet Committee.
  - Randy also thanked Michael Homer for his efforts assisting with the coordination of the meeting.
- Gene Wilde motioned a point of order, and he mentioned that we missed new business.
  - Gene Wilde requested that the chapter recognize Mike Morgan by acclamation for his 10 years of service as Scholarship Committee chairman.
  - The chapter recognized Mike Morgan.
- Gene Wilde proposed a motion for recognize Mike Morgan for his service to the chapter and education of future biologists.
  - Dave Buzan repeated the motion, and Doug Knabe seconded the motion.
  - Dave Buzan requested a vote which members voted to carry the motion 42 yes and 3 abstain.
- Randy requested additional new business from the chapter.
- Cheree Steward notified that the society will be hosting the annual meeting in Tampa, FL in 2017. She further mentioned that the society and FLAFS are seeking support for the annual meeting in the amount of \$500. Cheree discussed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been established between FLAFS and the society, which the FL chapter could have a profit share in the annual meeting revenue.
  - Gene Wilde proposed a motion that the chapter discuss a possible contribution \$500 to the 2017 annual meeting planning efforts.
  - Michele Nations seconded the motion.
  - Randy Rushin acknowledged that there was a motion and it was seconded.

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- Joe Beach asked if the contribution was going to the upcoming SDAFS meeting, and Cheree responded that it was going to the society meeting.
  - Mike Homer asked Cheree to clarify what the contribution would be used for. Cheree responded that any TCAFS contribution would be used for general meeting expenses and income.
  - Cheree further clarified that contributors would have varying levels of sponsorships dependent on the amount of their contribution.
  - Dave Buzan mentioned that the chapter had a considerable amount of discussion regarding the EXCOM's ability to discuss such contributions and make decisions on them. Dave further stated that in 2016, the EXCOM has decided to proceed to ask other chapters to reciprocate support for the 2019 SDAFS meeting. Dave Buzan suggested that this is a zero-sum gain because we will be asking these chapters for support in return for our contributions to the meetings they hosted. Dave also mentioned that a decision to contribute up to \$500 can be decided by the EXCOM without a chapter vote per the bylaws.
  - Gene Wilde stated that the chapter has made such contributions to the society in the past.
  - Dave Terre asked how the request was different from the previous made from SDAFS, and Mike Homer restated that the contribution was made to SDAFS earlier this year and the current request is being presented from the society and FLAFS.
  - Craig Bonds restated that FLAFS and the society had established an official MOU which FLAFS made a \$5000 donation to the society upfront for which FLAFS would share 10% in the profits of the meeting.
  - Randy asked if there was a motion to vote on the contribution for the 2017 AFS annual meeting.
  - Nate Smith questioned if the chapter could donate \$1000.
  - Randy Rushin stated that he would like to table the discussion and defer it to the EXCOM.
  - Ken Kurzawski stated the discussion could not be tabled.
  - Gene Wilde motioned that the chapter vote on the contribution of \$500.
  - Dave Buzan stated that a motion was presented to vote on the \$500 contribution and stated a second motion was not presented and called to the chapter for additional questions.
  - Michele Nations offered the second motion to vote on the contribution.
  - The chapter voted to carry the motion 42 Yes, 0 No, and 3 Abstain.
- Nate Smith motioned that an additional \$500 be contributed to the 2017 AFS annual meeting; Levi Sparks seconded the motion.
    - Randy Rushin asked if there was any need for discussion.
    - Gene Wilde addressed Randy Rushin and stated that he missed the motion. Randy restated that the motion was proposed to contribute an additional \$500 to the 2017 society annual meeting.
    - Randy asked if there was any need for discussion.
    - Gene Wilde expressed that the chapter has routinely contributed \$500, and the chapter should consider the precedent that it may be setting with large contributions.
    - Nate Smith stated that if TCAFS may be asking other chapters for money for the 2019 SDAFS meeting, that a \$1000 contribution may be a good gesture for gaining support from other chapters.
    - Brian Van Zee stated that he supports the \$500 contribution, but the chapter should really evaluate the precedent that it is setting for other chapters. Brian further stated that we appear to be the only chapter to offer such contributions.
    - Mark Webb stated that Cheree could amend her motion to provide the donation as two separate \$500 donations.
    - Craig Bonds asked what the chapter has set aside for such contributions and reaffirmed Mark Webb's statement that the chapter could decide to make two separate contributions at different times.
    - Craig stated that the Secretary-Treasurer could provide clarification.
    - Randy Rushin asked Michael Homer to clarify the chapter's budget for contributions.
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- Michael stated that the chapter will be providing a \$500 contribution to the Puerto Rico Chapter of AFS for the 2018 SDAFS annual meeting as well as a \$500 contribution to both Bass Brigades and Coastal Brigades. Michael stated that a \$500 contribution was made to AFS for the Skinner Award in 2016. Michael stated that we are going to be contributing \$2000 in 2017 in addition to scholarships. Michael stated that the chapter needs to take caution with its contributions and that the chapter's contribution of \$500 to FLAFS and the parent society would suffice.
- Gene Wilde stated that he is pleased to hear that fellow members are pleased to contribute more, but he is opposed to the additional money because of setting an expectation for such contributions.
- Ken Kurzawski stated the chapter should take some time to analyze the budget for what money could be allocated for future requests for annual meetings. He further mentioned that the scale of the meeting is much greater and so is the need for additional support.
- Dave Terre stated that the final invoice for the 2017 TCAFS annual meeting had not been paid yet. Michael Homer requested that the motion for an additional \$500 contribution be amended to only contribute \$500 total.
- Randy stated that the previous motion already passed and cannot be amended.
- Gene Wilde motioned that the chapter vote on whether to contribute an additional \$500 to FLAFS and the society for the 2017 annual meeting.
- Randy Rushin acknowledged the motion. Levi Sparks provided the second motion.
- The membership voted to not carry the motion for the additional contribution: 6 Yes; 29 No; and 10 Abstain.
- Randy Rushin asked if there was any new business.
- Elizabeth Hunt with the Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi introduced herself to the chapter, and she stated that her subunit has recently received official recognition from the society as an official subunit.
  - Randy Rushin thanked Elizabeth and the Corpus Christi subunit for their assistance at the 2017 annual meeting and that he is pleased to see them established as a subunit.
- Ken Kurzawski stated that the society procedures and bylaws that the chapter is required to vote on any subunit business, and that the EXCOM consider that members placing a vote in the business meeting or running for office should be society members.
- Gene Wilde stated that during the auction Randy Rushin had bid on an item \$800 higher than he had intended to.
  - Gene had asked that Randy Rushin be acknowledged for his contribution.
    - The chapter recognized Randy by acclamation.
- Randy Rushin requested a motion to adjourn. Ken Kurzawski presented the motion to adjourn; Dan Daugherty provided the second motion.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was declared adjourned by Randy Rushin at 2:03 pm.





# Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

## January 1 - December 31, 2016 Financial Statement

<b>Starting Balance as of 1/1/2016</b>		<b>\$21,041.32</b>
<b>Income</b>		
2016 Interest	\$1.79	
2016 Meeting Income	23,332.82	
2016 TCAFS Collected Dues & AFS Rebate	\$395.93	
2016 Member Donations	\$43.00	
2017 Meeting Income & Membership Dues	\$8,344.38	
Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation* (*17,500 Donated)	\$9,000.00	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$41,117.92</b>
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>62,159.24</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Awards		
Scholarships	\$6,500.00	
Plaques & Certificates	\$580.00	
	<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>\$7,080.00</b>
Annual Meetings		
Y.O. Ranch Hotel & Conf. Center - Kerrville, TX (2016)	\$14,581.44	
2016 Meeting - Cash Bank	\$300.00	
2016 Meeting Supplies & Printing	\$1,064.80	
2016 Raffle Items – Ruger & Bennelli Guns	\$760.00	
Meeting Deposit – Holiday Inn (Corpus Christi, TX)	\$2,000.00	
	<b>Total Annual Meeting</b>	<b>\$18,706.24</b>
Other		
2016 Chapter Insurance (AFS)	\$150.00	
AFS Skinner Award Contribution	\$500.00	
SDAFS 2017 Contribution to OKAFS	\$500.00	
CPA for 2015 Tax Preparation (Gollub, Morgan, Peddy)	\$1,350.00	
Bass & Coastal Brigades Contributions (\$500 each)	\$1,000.00	
Postage Stamps	\$47.00	
Shipping Costs	\$21.53	
Bank & Check Fees	\$9.00	
	<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$3,577.53</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,363.77</b>
	<b>Income – Expenses</b>	<b>\$48,145.07</b>
<b>Money Transferred</b>		
TCAFS Endowment Fund	\$5,500	
<b>Ending Balance as of 12/31/2016</b>		<b>\$27,295.47</b>



## Student Opportunities

### ❖ EWRI undergraduate scholarships



The Austin Chapter of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) is offering one undergraduate scholarship valued at \$1,500 and one of \$500. Eligible applicants must be undergraduates registered for the spring 2017 semester and graduating in or after fall 2017 majoring in civil engineering, environmental engineering, environmental science, soil science, biology, hydrogeology, architecture, landscape architecture, geography, or a related field. Further your permanent address or university address must be within the following counties served by the Austin Branch; Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Mills, San Saba, Travis, and Williamson. Applications must be received by 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday, March 22, 2017. Scholarship application forms are available on the EWRI website at <http://austinasce.org/ewri/>

### ❖ AFS Best Student Paper/ Poster Symposium

Apply to participate in the Best Student Paper/Poster Symposium at the 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, August 20-24 in Tampa, FL

#### Best Student Oral Presentation – by **Friday March 17th:**

- 1) Self-identify during the online abstract submission
- 2) Upload both a standard AND an extended abstract. Examples available at the Education Section website: <http://education.fisheries.org/awards/best-student-presentation-and-poster/>
- 3) Arrange for your advisor to submit an e-mail to the symposium co-chairs indicating that the study is at a stage appropriate for consideration for this award:  
Only student research projects at or near completion will be considered for the Best Student Oral Presentation Award

#### Best Student Poster Presentation – by **Friday March 17th:**

- 1) Self-identify during the online abstract submission
- 2) Upload only a standard abstract
- 3) Arrange for your advisor to submit an e-mail to the symposium co-chairs indicating that the study includes data analysis representing either ongoing or completed work

**No extended abstract is required to be considered for the Best Student Poster Presentation.**

The Best Student Paper Symposium will be held Monday (8/21) morning and afternoon and the Best Student Poster Symposium will be held on Monday (8/21) evening. Award recipients will be announced at the AFS Business Meeting on Tuesday (8/22). **Attendance at AFS Business Meeting Required!**

For more information, including abstract examples, go to the “Best Student Presentation and Poster Awards” page: <http://education.fisheries.org/awards>

We look forward to reviewing your applications and if you have any questions, please contact your 2017 student paper/poster symposium co-chairs:

Mark Fincel ([Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us](mailto:Mark.Fincel@state.sd.us))

Amanda Rosenberger ([rosenbergera@missouri.edu](mailto:rosenbergera@missouri.edu))

Dan Shoup ([dshoup@okstate.edu](mailto:dshoup@okstate.edu))



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## Join the Texas Chapter

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site, <http://sd.fisheries.org/tcafs/> or by contacting Deborah Wade, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2234, [Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us)

**If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the chapter newsletter.**

Members are encouraged to make submissions to the Newsletter Editor by mail or e-mail to one of the addresses listed below.

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