

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Annual Business Meeting
Friday, 9 March 2018
Intercontinental Hotel – Grand Ballroom A & B
San Juan, PR

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Wes Porak called the 2017 SDAFS Business Meeting to order at 1730 hrs. Current SDAFS officers were introduced: President, Wes Porak; President-Elect, Craig Bonds; Vice President, Wes Neal; and Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio; Past President, Dave Coughlan; Student Representative to the EXCOM, Amy Cottrell. President Porak welcomed attendees to the SDAFS annual business meeting. Steve Lochmann made a motion to approve the agenda, which was then seconded by Cecil Jennings. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Porak recognized distinguished guests in attendance: AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS President and Past SDAFS President Steve McMullin, Second Vice President and Past SDAFS President Brian Murphy, AFS Past President Joe Margraf, and Past SDAFS Presidents Mike Allen, Cecil Jennings, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, and Dennis Riecke.

AFS President Steve McMullin's Remarks: President McMullin provided an update on his AFS initiatives which are to: 1) increase diversity and inclusion in the AFS and fisheries profession; 2) improve communications between fisheries professionals and nontechnical audiences; and 3) revise the AFS strategic plan. President McMullin appointed a special committee on diversity and inclusion in AFS and took steps to recruit student and young professional members for AFS standing committees. Recent formation of the AFS Science Communication Committee and Science Communication Section will help with communication within The Society and with others outside The Society. The 2018 AFS meeting in Atlantic City will encompass several of these initiatives, with a theme of *Communicating the Science of Fisheries Conservation to Diverse Audiences* and three distinguished women plenary speakers. The meeting already has 90 proposals for symposia and is projected to reach registration targets.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks: Executive Director Austen updated the membership on upcoming AFS meetings: Atlantic City, NJ in 2018; joint meeting with The Wildlife Society in Reno, NV in 2019; 150th meeting in Columbus, OH in 2020; and Baltimore, MD in 2021. In 2022, AFS will also be hosting the 2nd Joint Aquatic Sciences meeting. Also mentioned was the new AFS publisher, Wiley, and the free electronic subscription of all five AFS journals for members. In the works are a gray literature clearing house and 2nd edition of the standard sampling methods book. He also highlighted some of the federal advocacy work AFS is involved in with regards to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, Waters of the U.S. rule, and Magnuson Stevens Act update.

SDAFS President Porak's Address: President Porak reiterated his four goals for his presidential term. First was to increase the financial stability of the SDAFS to provide more services to its members. Last year, the SDAFS created a partnership with the Florida Chapter and The Society for the Tampa AFS meeting which resulted in over \$18,000 in income for the SDAFS. Second was to improve communications within the Southern Division. A new Communications Team, led by the Student Representative to the EXCOM Amy Cottrell, created

guidelines for student subunits and created gmail accounts for each student subunit that will become the main channel for SDAFS communications. Other members of the committee include Hae Kim (webmaster), Corbin Hilling (SDAFS newsletter editor), Brandon Peeples (SDAFS listserv), and Andrew Taylor (AFS Science Communication Committee). Third was to promote mentorship, and he did so through two newsletter pieces. His final goal was to help make the Puerto Rico SDAFS meeting a success.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio's Report: Minutes from the 2017 Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2017 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS website. Having received no comments or revisions, Brett Timmons made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and Mike Allen seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. No further questions or comments were received and the minutes stand approved.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted the main points from the 2017 SDAFS financial statement. Income levels were in line with what was expected, except for income from the Tampa AFS meeting which was not received in the 2017 calendar year. Same was true for expenses, except web service costs were approximately \$2,000 less than anticipated. The SDAFS balance as of December 31, 2017 was \$12,043.93.

An audit of the 2017 financial information was completed on January 29, 2018 by the SDAFS Audit Committee led by Committee Chair Eric Nagid. Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances were in agreement; however, it was noted that there were \$1,830 in outstanding expenses related to checks that had not been cashed by the end of the 2017 calendar year. The audit report, which was presented at the SDAFS EXCOM meeting and approved, was read aloud in its entirety by President Porak.

The Proposed 2018 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted some of the major changes to the upcoming budget. Additional income will include revenue from the 2017 Tampa AFS meeting in the amount of \$22,554. For expenses, \$2,000 was carried over from 2017 to address various website issues for the technical committees. Increased expenses for student (\$4,000 to \$6,000) and podcast (\$600 to \$1,200) travel were also budgeted for the SDAFS Puerto Rico meeting. Anticipated end-of-year balance is \$20,947.43, a portion of which is slated to be invested. This budget was previously presented at the SDAFS EXCOM meeting and approved.

Host Chapter Report: Gus Engman with the Puerto Rico Chapter welcomed attendees to the meeting and Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Chapter is about 5 years old and has around 25 members, and it is growing. He addressed some of the challenges Puerto Rico is facing post Hurricane Maria and encouraged people to visit local areas and interact with people from the island, both within and outside fisheries. He expressed his appreciation for all the help the Chapter received to make this meeting possible. With the help of many individuals, especially Wes Porak with the SDAFS and Katrina Dunn with The Society, and the generous donations from Chapters, Divisions, and individuals, over \$9000 was raised to help with travel stipends for impacted Puerto Rico Chapter members to attend the SDAFS meeting. Also, over \$6000 was raised for the SDAFS service day which was done in collaboration with the San Juan Bay Estuary and 7 Quillas to restore and promote formation of sand dunes at Ocean Park. In all, 77 SDAFS meeting attendees helped to plant 200 sea grapes and paradise plums, pick up trash along the beach, and transport washed out sand back onto the beach. Finally, with it being National

Womens Day, he recognized the contributions of women fisheries professionals. General Meeting Co-chairs Pat Mazik and Miguel Garcia and Program Chair Tom Kwak also provided several meeting updates and reminders. In all, the meeting comprised of 7 concurrent sessions, 6 workshops, 132 talks, 27 posters, technical committee meetings, plenary session, and several networking events.

President-Elect Craig Bonds' Chapter Activity Report: President-Elect Bonds summarized the 15 annual reports submitted by AFS Chapters within the Southern Division. Most held some form of annual meeting, either independently or jointly with other chapters or related organizations. Noteworthy were the Florida Chapter for hosting the annual AFS meeting in Tampa and the Puerto Rico Chapter for weathering severe challenges to host this meeting. In all, Chapters within the Southern Division reported 1,425 meeting attendees, 256 oral presentations, 99 poster presentations, and 14 continuing education workshops with 492 attendees. Workshop topics included fish, plant, and invertebrate species identification, fish ageing, otolith microchemistry, fish kill investigations, stock assessment analysis, statistics, remote sensing, acoustics, and fish health. At least 72 Chapter awards were presented for various achievements and 52 travel scholarships were granted to students. A variety of communication channels were used including newsletters, listservs, websites, and social media. Three student subunits were either reconstituted or established last year. Two noteworthy mentions went to the Arkansas Chapter which pays for half the cost of its members to get AFS certification and the Virginia Chapter which initiated a Virginia Junior Fisheries Biologist Program that allows students to work with a professional mentor during the summer. President-Elect Bonds wrapped up his report by thanking the many volunteers that make the work of these Chapters possible.

Vice President Wes Neal's Technical Committee Report: The SDAFS Briefing Book contained nine technical committee reports for 2017. As part of his duties, Vice President Neal reviewed the SDAFS Alligator Gar Technical Committee. This committee started in 2005 as a working group, then became an ad hoc committee in 2009 and a formal technical committee in 2013. The committee's aim is to increase student participation and improve communication between researchers and managers. It has identified several action items which include creation of a webinar series, redevelopment of its committee website, planning of a SDAFS symposium and workshop, and the funding of student travel to attend future meetings. Vice President Neal reported to the EXCOM that the committee was doing a fantastic job and should remain intact. He also recommended that the SDAFS continue to provide assistance to help with increasing student participation, website development, and promoting next year's symposium and workshop. Highlights from the other technical committees were provided. Several technical committees, including the Catfish, Reservoir, and Warm Water Streams Technical Committees, awarded student scholarships and were either in the process of updating or creating new websites. Other noteworthy developments were the Aquaculture Technical Committee holding a fish culture workshop; the Catfish Management Technical Committee planning a Catfish Symposium at the SDAFS meeting in 2020; the former Striped Bass Technical Committee changing its name to the Morone Technical Committee, creating a new website and database for temperate basses, and planning a future symposium; the Pollution Technical Committee working on a manuscript about fish kill survey methodologies among states; the Reservoir Technical Committee organizing a fish habitat enhancement workshop; the Small Impoundments Technical Committee using a conference call format for meetings, completing a research project with Auburn University, and planning a symposium for the 2019 SDAFS meeting; the Trout Technical Committee working on their committee website; and the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee formulating a statement on the impacts of fracking on warmwater streams.

Resolutions Committee Report: Chair of the Resolutions Committee Dennis Riecke read a prepared resolution in appreciation of the host Chapter. He then moved to adopt the host resolution and Mike Homer seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ballot Committee Report: Past President Dave Coughlan, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced this year's nominees for Vice President and Student Representative to the EXCOM. On behalf of Chair of the Ballot Committee Hae Kim, Past President Coughlan also announced the winners of the election held in summer 2017. Candidates were Vic DiCenzo and Tom Kwak for Vice President (winner Tom Kwak); and Lauren Halbert, Kyler Hecke, Christopher Pickens, and Tyler Steube for Student Representative to the EXCOM (winners Lauren Halbert and Kyler Hecke).

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

The Best Student Poster Award from the 2017 SDAFS Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK went to Jessica Pease of Texas Tech University for her work entitled *Habitat Use and Movement Patterns of Guadalupe Bass: Contrasting Main Stem Versus Tributary Stream Populations*. The Best Student Paper was awarded to Adam Fox (Douglas Peterson, coauthor) of University of Georgia for their work entitled *Status of Atlantic Sturgeon in the Satilla, St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers*. Second place for Best Student Presentation Award was given to Kevin R. Keretz (Hal Schramm, Colin Dinken, and Peter Allen, coauthors) of Mississippi State University for their work entitled *Independent Effects of Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, and Swimming on Survival of Angler-Caught Largemouth Bass*. First authors received plaques and coauthors received certificates. Checks for \$50 (Best Poster and Second Place Best Presentation) and \$100 (First Place Best Presentation) were also given to each first author prior to the meeting.

The John F. Dequine Best Paper awards were for the two best papers/presentations presented at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies held in Louisville, KY. First place was given to Leslie Burger (Wes Neal and Robert Lusk, co-authors) of Mississippi State University for their manuscript/presentation entitled *The Role of Private Ponds in Recruiting the Next Generation of Anglers*. The runner-up award was given to Wes Neal (Clint Lloyd, co-author) of Mississippi State University for their manuscript/presentation entitled *Response of Fish Populations to Floating Streambed Wetlands*. Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Dr. Steve Sammons and Dr. Hal Schramm.

Dr. Sammons has served as the Fisheries Editor for the Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies for the past seven years. Through Steve's efforts and efforts of others on the Journal's editorial board, the quality of the Journal of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has improved greatly over the years. The Journal is now recognized as a quality peer-review journal and now can be accessed by literature search engines, because of Dr. Sammons' long-term commitment and dedication to the quality of the Journal, and his hard work to improve papers and research conducted by biologists in our division. Dr. Sammons also played a significant role in transforming, upgrading, and

modernizing SEAFWA's annual publication during its transition from a paper Proceedings to an electronic Journal in 2014.

Dr. Schramm has made substantial and meaningful contributions to fisheries management, ecology, education, and public outreach that when taken cumulatively constitute a monumental contribution to the fisheries management profession. Dr. Schramm's work on recreational fisheries management has been directed at sportfish population management and the multidisciplinary interface between resource users and fish population management. He has served as a co-editor for *Fisheries Management and Ecology*, co-edited two AFS proceedings including *Uses and Effects of Cultured Fishes*, and *Catfish 2000: Proceedings of the International Ictalurid Symposium*, as well as a Blackwell book entitled *Global Challenges in Recreational Fisheries*. He served as Associate Editor for the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* and on the editorial board of *Reviews in Fisheries Science*. He has served as president of the Fisheries Management Section of AFS, was a founder and first chairperson of the Competitive Fishing Committee of the Fisheries Management, and Administrators sections of AFS. Dr. Schramm has taught Fish Ecology, Fisheries Science, and Fisheries Management at the University of Florida, Texas Tech University, and Mississippi State University. He has advised many undergraduate students and directed theses and dissertations for over 30 graduate students.

The Best Student Sub-Unit Award was presented to North Carolina State University. This student sub-unit fosters professional development opportunities for their members through a variety of service and hands-on activities, including field sampling trips and taxonomic ID workshops at the museum. They hold monthly meetings and manage a website, listserv, Facebook page, and Twitter account for communications. The NC State Student Sub-unit has numerous outreach activities, ranging from fishing and educational events to classroom presentations, that reached more than 1,000 K-12 students. Sub-unit student members gave 29 presentations (several award-winning) at 15 different conferences and workshops. The Student Sub-unit raised funds not only to cover their meeting expenses, but also to sponsor several travel awards and an annual Service Award.

The Outstanding Chapter Award was presented to the Virginia Chapter. The Virginia Chapter of AFS provides rooms for students to attend annual meetings. The Virginia Chapter frequently holds student-mentor-luncheons for college and high school students at annual meetings. In 2017, the Chapter initiated a Virginia Junior Fisheries Biologist program which gives a student a \$3000 scholarship and an opportunity to work with a mentor on a specific summer project. The Virginia Chapter also awards \$2,350 in scholarships and best paper and poster awards annually to a winner and runner-up for graduate and undergraduate students at annual meetings. The Chapter recognizes numerous outstanding scientists and managers through awards for biologists each year, and even recognizes a citizen each year with a conservation award. The Virginia Chapter is completing a field guide to *The Fishes of Virginia* and organizing an International Symposiums on Snakeheads.

Jim Burroughs of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award. The \$500 travel award and complimentary one-year membership to AFS was given to Mathew Acre whose graduate research focuses on flow regime effects on Blue Sucker spawning movements, habitat use, and recruitment in the lower Colorado River, Texas.

Jason Olive, Chair of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, presented Corbin Hilling of Virginia Tech University with the \$300 Catfish Management Committee Scholarship award for his work with Blue Catfish in Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

Gene Gilliland with the SDAFS Black Bass Conservation Committee presented two Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarships for Females in Fisheries. Chosen from a pool of 19 applicants from 13 universities, Amy Cottrell, a Masters student at Auburn University, and Amanda Guthrie, a PhD student at Virginia Institute of Marine Science, were each awarded a \$1000 scholarship.

Resolution of Appreciation to Host plaques and certificates were given to the Puerto Rico Chapter and key members of the meeting planning committee. Plaques were presented to the Puerto Rico Chapter, general meeting co-chairs, and program co-chairs. Everyone else received certificates.

Old Business: None.

Installation of 2018 Officers: Prior to installing new officers, President Porak gave a word of appreciation to two people ending their terms on the EXCOM, Past President Coughlan and Student Representative to the EXCOM Amy Cottrell. New officers were Lauren Halbert (absent) and Kyler Hecke, Student Representatives to the EXCOM; Kim Bonvechio, Secretary-Treasurer; Tom Kwak, Vice President; Wes Neal, President-Elect; and Craig Bonds, President.

Newly Installed President Craig Bonds' Remarks: President Bonds commended Past President Porak for his service to the SDAFS, then offered him a plaque and gifts of appreciation. President Bonds thanked previous SDAFS presidents for their mentorship. He identified two themes for his presidential term: 1) completion and 2) communications and connections. With regards to the first, his goals are to complete the update of the SDAFS Procedure Manual and transition of all technical committee websites. For the latter, his goals are to increase the flow of communication between state agency and SDAFS technical committee leadership, support SDAFS officer travel to Chapter meetings, and continue periodic conference calls with Chapters, The Society, and SDAFS EXCOM. In closing, he reminded the membership that the SDAFS officers exist to serve and represent them. He encouraged them to reach out to the SDAFS officers with any needs or ideas they have to improve that service.

New Business: President Bonds invited Texas Chapter President Mike Homer to talk about the 2019 SDAFS meeting to be held in Galveston, TX from January 24-27, 2019. Mike Homer first acknowledged the General Meeting Chair Dan Daugherty and everyone on the Planning Committee for their efforts in the meeting planning process. He then gave a summary of the meeting including general location, facilities, registration fees, and other details.

Meeting was adjourned by President Bonds at 1915 hrs.