

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Annual Business Meeting
Friday, 25 January 2019
Moody Gardens Conference Center – Ivy 1
Galveston, TX

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Craig Bonds called the 2019 SDAFS Business Meeting to order at 1705 hrs. President Bonds introduced himself and highlighted several accomplishments of the SDAFS EXCOM during his term: 1) completion of the SDAFS Procedures Manual revision, an effort led by Immediate Past President Wes Porak; 2) completion of the SDAFS technical committee websites' migration to The Society's host site, an effort led by SDAFS Webmaster Hae Kim; 3) survey of student subunits to identify ways to make workshops more impactful and technical committees more inviting to students, an effort led by SDAFS Student Representative to the EXCOM Kyler Hecke; and 4) transfer of the SDAFS strategic reserve fund into the AFS investment portfolio, an effort led by SDAFS Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio.

Cindy Williams made a motion to approve the agenda, which was then seconded by Gus Engman. One typo and one addition were noted. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Bonds introduced the other SDAFS officers: President-Elect Wes Neal, Immediate Past President Wes Porak, Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio, Student Representative to the EXCOM Kyler Hecke. As a federal employee, Vice President Tom Kwak could not attend due to the current federal government shutdown.

President Bonds recognized distinguished guests in attendance: former SDAFS Presidents Dennis Riecke, John Jackson, Brian Murphy, Steve Lochmann, Steve McMullin, Jeff Boxrucker, and Nick Parker; and AFS staff members, AFS President Jesse Trushenski and AFS Executive Director Doug Austen.

AFS President Jesse Trushenski's Remarks: President Trushenski briefed attendees on The Society, including its other officers President-Elect Scott Bonar, First Vice President Brian Murphy, Second Vice President Leanne Roulson, and Past President Steve McMullin and staff including Executive Director Doug Austen and Deputy Executive Director Dan Cassidy. President Trushenski recognized two other staff members in attendance, Managing Editor of *Fisheries* Peter Turcik and Policy Director Drue Winters. With Policy Director Drue Winters, The Society is actively putting sound science in front of decision makers for legislation such as the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), Magnuson Stevens Act Reauthorization, and Waters of the United States rule. Other AFS efforts include the publication of five new books in the past 18 months, free webinars and journal subscription to AFS journals for members, and helping chapters with services and meeting logistics. President Trushenski then highlighted the five elements of her term: 1) creation of the next 5-yr strategic plan; 2) addressing gaps in professional development of fisheries professionals; 3) strengthening AFS publications; 4) continuing efforts to increase diversity within the fisheries profession; and 5) making fisheries relevant to the public and increasing the accessibility of fisheries science to lay audiences. Finally, President Trushenski invited and encouraged attendees to participate in the historic

upcoming joint meeting of the AFS and The Wildlife Society in Reno. Her final message to attendees was to encourage them to share their science and story, to get uncomfortable, to continue moving fisheries conservation and management forward.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks: Mr. Austen listed upcoming AFS meetings: Reno, NV in 2019; Columbus, OH (150th anniversary) in 2020; Baltimore, MD in 2021; Spokane, WA in 2022; Grand Rapids, MI in 2023; and Honolulu, Hawaii in 2024. The upcoming World Fisheries Congress in Australia in 2020 and Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) in Grand Rapids, MI in 2022 were also highlighted to emphasize AFS's involvement on the larger world stage. Mr. Austen also emphasized other efforts for AFS to expand its voice by working with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and National Cooperatives' Coalition. Current projects in AFS include the gray literature clearing house, updating the sampling standardization book, and reviewing and updating the "Blue Book" (fish health diagnostics).

AFS Policy Director Drue Winters Remarks: Drue Winters provided attendees with a policy update, specifically AFS's involvement with RAWA and Modern Fish Act, providing input to decision makers on climate change impacts on fisheries, and synthesis of the science about the importance of headwaters to fish and fisheries and impacts of the new Waters of the U.S. rule on them.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio's Report: Both the 2018 Financial Audit Report, 2018 SDAFS Meeting Minutes, and 2019 Budget were previously approved at the 2019 EXCOM meeting. As such, Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio just provided attendees with important highlights on the SDAFS budgets during her report. Three items were highlighted for the 2018 budget: \$22,554 income from the 2017 Tampa AFS Meeting, \$2,084.64 in expenses for website services (vs. \$4,002 budgeted), and \$10,000 transferred to the AFS Investment Portfolio. Typical levels of income and expenses were expected for 2019. One noteworthy change included an addition of \$1,000 from the John F. Dequine Estate and SDAFS commitment of \$1,000 for the 2020 Catfish Symposium to be held in conjunction with the SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, AR.

Host Chapter Report: Texas Chapter President Michael Homer expressed his gratitude for meeting attendees, AFS staff, SDAFS leadership, and other state AFS chapters for their help in organizing this year's meeting. This year's meeting included 7 technical committee meetings, 13 continuing education workshops, 21 exhibitors, 204 oral presentations, and 85 posters.

President-Elect Wes Neal's Chapter Activity Report: President-Elect Neal summarized the 2018 annual reports submitted by AFS Chapters within the Southern Division. The Alabama Chapter is growing and held its first solo meeting with 73 attendees. The Arkansas Chapter held its 32nd annual meeting with 126 attendees, and its Environmental Affairs Committee drafted several letters providing comments or support for key issues. Also of note, they reimburse members half the cost of becoming an AFS certified fisheries professional. The Florida Chapter held its 38th annual meeting with 84 attendees, initiated an annual workshop series hosted by their student subunit, wrote a letter of support for RAWA, and wrote a letter in opposition to the SDAFS resolution for the revision of the shipment clause of the Lacey Act. The Georgia Chapter held their annual meeting with 120 attendees, hosted a career panel discussion, and conducted Fish Aging and Intro to FAMS workshops. The Louisiana Chapter held its 39th annual meeting with 117 attendees and signed a letter of support for RAWA. The Mississippi Chapter held its 44th annual meeting with 90 attendees and created a display about the Mississippi AFS for the

North Mississippi Fish Hatchery. Also, Tom Holman of the Mississippi Chapter won Fisheries Biologist of the Year at the 2018 SEAFWA meeting. The North Carolina Chapter co-hosted a meeting with the Southeast Atlantic Slope Mollusk (SEASM) Working Group with 87 attendees, conducted a Climate Change Workshop, and gave out numerous chapter awards. The Oklahoma Chapter hosted the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference with 339 attendees and conducted a workshop on Communication for Natural Resource Professionals. The Potomac Chapter co-hosted their annual crab feast at AFS headquarters with the local chapter of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists. The Puerto Rico Chapter hosted the SDAFS meeting last year and also partnered with the San Juan Bay Estuary Program and Siete Quillas Group to perform a beach restoration event. The South Carolina Chapter hosted its annual meeting with 90 attendees and conducted a Parasitology Workshop. The Tennessee Chapter hosted its annual meeting with 81 attendees and conducted four workshops (Intro to R, Intro to R Graphics, Mussel ID, Fish ID). The Texas Chapter spent much of the year planning for the 2019 SDAFS meeting, but also held its annual meeting with 225 attendees and conducted Intro to Genomics and Freshwater Mussel Conservation in Texas workshops. The Tidewater Chapter held its annual meeting with 130 attendees and conducted a course on Citizen Science. The Virginia and Virginia Tech Chapters held a joint meeting with 80 attendees and held a workshop on Fisheries Analysis with R. The Virginia Chapter also hosted its first Snakehead Symposium with 81 attendees and provided training on field sampling design and statistical power. Other chapters not included here did not submit reports this year.

Vice President Tom Kwak's Technical Committee Report: In Vice President Kwak's absence, President Bonds delivered his report to attendees. Vice President Kwak reviewed the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee in coordination with Committee Chair Aaron Bunch. This review included the committee's history since its establishment in 2004, mission and focus, meetings and communications, recent accomplishments, future activities, and state engagement. Following his review, the committee was deemed an active and relevant technical committee, serving its members and the Southern Division well. The committee is currently planning and hosting the 3rd International Catfish Symposium in collaboration with the North Central AFS Division and in conjunction with the 2020 SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, AR. The Catfish Management Technical Committee serves as a successful model for other technical committees and the leadership strives for growth and improvement. Recommendation to the EXCOM is to continue to support this committee as they pursue their own goals and the goals of AFS at multiple levels.

Resolutions Committee Report: Chair of the Resolutions Committee Dennis Riecke presented the *Resolution on the Inclusion of Hydrologic Alteration as an Impairment in State Water Quality Standard* submitted by the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee. This resolution was previously posted on the SDAFS website and sent out to the membership via the SDAFS listserv for comment. It was then considered by the EXCOM and was voted to move the resolution for consideration by the SDAFS membership. Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Cindy Williams and seconded by Kevin Mayes. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Motion to move the resolution to the AFS Resource Policy Committee for consideration was made by Michael Homer and seconded by Cindy Williams. Some discussion ensued. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Ballot Committee Report: Past President Wes Porak, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the winners of the election held electronically in July 2018. New officers for 2019 are

Cindy Williams (Vice President), Jessica Baumann (Secretary-Treasurer), and Sarah Baker (Student Representative to the EXCOM).

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

The John F. Dequine Best Paper awards were for the two best papers/presentations presented at the 2018 Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies held in Mobile, AL. First place was given to Dan Daugherty (K. Pangle, D. Buckmeier, and N. G. Smith, coauthors) of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for their manuscript/presentation entitled *A Tale of Two Timescales: Using Otolith Microchemistry to Improve Our Understanding of Alligator Gar Movement in the Lower Trinity River, Texas*.

The runner-up award was given to J. Wes Neal of Mississippi State University for his manuscript/presentation entitled *Increasing Largemouth Bass Carrying Capacity Using Destratification: A Case Study*. Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Harriet Perry, known affectionately as the “Gulf of Mexico Crab Lady.” Dr. Perry is one of the Gulf of Mexico region’s most highly esteemed marine scientists. She has contributed immeasurably to the study of the Gulf of Mexico’s dynamic coastal ecosystems, with over five decades of interdisciplinary research and working collaboratively with the fishing industry, community leaders, and decision makers. Among her many accomplishments are creating a blue crab database, initiating a blue crab aquaculture program, investigating the impacts of the Deep Horizon oil spill on young blue crabs, and establishing and directing the University of Southern Mississippi’s Center for Fisheries Research and Development. Now in retirement, she continues to influence and mentor students through her work as a Senior Research Scientist at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Professor Emeritus at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Department of Coastal Sciences, and active AFS member.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Kim Bonvechio for her work and dedication to AFS, including her service as SDAFS Secretary-Treasurer for the past four years, Registration Chair for the 2018 Puerto Rico SDAFS meeting, Publicity and Public Relations Chair for the 2017 Tampa AFS meeting, and future Associate Editor for the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*. She has also been involved with various committees, continuing education courses, judging of student presentations and posters, and mentoring women in fisheries.

The Outstanding Chapter Award was presented to the Texas Chapter. The Texas Chapter of AFS has been active for over 40 years and currently has over 220 members and four student subunits. Annually, this chapter gives up to \$11,500 in scholarships, provides undergraduate student internships through partnerships, and provides support for the Texas Bass and Coastal Brigades Camps for middle and high school students. The Chapter also recognizes its members with annual awards for their excellence in service and fisheries and provides input on legislation such as RAWA.

The Best Student Sub-Unit Award was presented to University of Tennessee. This student sub-unit was chartered in 2005 and has joined with the student chapter of the Wildlife Society to

become the University of Tennessee Student Chapter of the Wildlife and Fisheries Society. With over 60 active members, the chapter hosts social events, including an annual fish fry and wild game dinner, attends freshman orientation recruiting events, and conducts two annual fundraisers to fund student conference travel. Chapter members also work to enhance their scientific and professional skills by attending chapter, division and national conferences to give technical presentations and posters. They assist with species and habitat projects across Tennessee, including reintroduction monitoring of the Lake Sturgeon on the Tennessee River, IBI (index of Biotic integrity) sampling in the Little and Pigeon Rivers, and Sickle Darter survey. They also participate in community outreach and education by working with local scout troops and elementary schools and supporting community efforts such as “Sturgeonfest.”

The Best Student Paper from the 2018 SDAFS Meeting in San Juan, PR was awarded to Bobby Cope (T. Kwak, T. Black, K. Pacifici, E. Hallerman, and C. Miller, coauthors) of North Carolina State University for their work entitled *Status, Habitat, and Genetics of the Endemic Carolina Madtom*. Second place for Best Student Presentation Award was given to Charlie Jordan, (T. Fernando and J. Stoeckel, coauthors) of Arkansas Tech University for their work entitled *Evaluation of Four Low-Frequency Electrofishing Pulse Rates for Collecting Blue Catfish Ictalurus furcatus in the Arkansas River*. Honorable Mention was given to Kaitlin Aaby of St. Mary’s College of Maryland for her work entitled *Effects of UV Radiation on Crude Oil Toxicity in the Estuarine Species, Cyprinodon variegatus*. The Best Student Poster Award went to Wesley Moore (A. Rodgers, D. L. Bell, A. Michaeli, E. Judson, and B. Peoples, coauthors) of Clemson University for their work entitled *Dietary Study on Bartram’s Bass in Upper Savannah River Basin*. First and second place authors will receive plaques and coauthors and the honorable mention winner will receive certificates. Checks for \$50 (Best Poster and Second Place Best Presentation) and \$100 (First Place Best Presentation) were previously given to each first author.

Lawrence Dorsey of the SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee presented the Robert M. Jenkins Scholarship to Robert Eckelbecker from Auburn University and Stephen Parker from North Carolina State University. Students were presented with a \$500 check courtesy of this year’s scholarship sponsors, American Aquatics and Fishiding, as well as a book courtesy of Dr. Jeff Boxrucker and the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership.

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 Kyler Hecke from the University of Tennessee who was nominated by his advisor Dr. Brian Alford for his graduate research on the historical occupancy of fish and mussel fauna of greatest conservation need in the Clinch River drainage of Virginia and Tennessee and the spatial ecology of the rare Sickle Darter.

Aaron Bunch, Chair of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, announced Vaskar Nepal from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science as the \$300 Catfish Management Committee Scholarship award recipient this year.

Gene Gilliland with the SDAFS Black Bass Conservation Committee announced that applications for this year’s Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarship for Females in Fisheries will be accepted through March 2019. He encouraged interested undergraduate and graduate students to apply online through the bassmaster.com website.

Resolution of Appreciation to Host plaques and certificates were given to the Texas Chapter and key members of the meeting planning committee. Plaques were presented to the Texas Chapter,

General Meeting Chair Dan Daugherty, and Program Chair Alice Best. Everyone else received certificates.

Old Business: None.

Installation of 2019 Officers: Prior to installing new officers, President Bonds gave a word of appreciation to three people ending their terms on the EXCOM: Immediate Past President Porak, Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio and Student Representative to the EXCOM Hecke. New officers were Sarah Baker, Student Representative to the EXCOM; Jessica Baumann, Secretary-Treasurer; Cindy Williams, Vice President; Tom Kwak, President-Elect; and Wes Neal, President.

Newly Installed President Wes Neal's Remarks: President Neal shared with attendees the two main goals of his presidential term: 1) to make the Southern Division more inviting to students and 2) to find ways for the Division to serve its members better. He encouraged members to reach out to him or the EXCOM with any ideas they may have on how to improve the Division. President Neal then recognized the works of Past President Bonds with a special gavel plaque and gift and former Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio with a plaque.

New Business: President Neal invited Ben Batten with the Arkansas Chapter to speak about the 2020 SDAFS meeting to be held in Little Rock, AR. He handed out flyers and showed a video created by the Arkansas Visitors Bureau and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission inviting attendees to the meeting next year.

Meeting was adjourned by President Neal at 1940 hrs.