## Southern **Division News**



Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society



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Check out candidate biographies for the upcoming officer elections.

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Read about what our chapters and committees have been doing.

## The President's Message David Coughlan, SDAFS President

Please let me extend a longoverdue 'Thank You' to the SDAFS! Three years ago many of you voted for me in the Vice Presidential election, and this is the first real opportunity I've had to address a large majority of you

Pictured above Chris Green, Steve Beck, Tim Ruth, and Beth Clowes (left to right) at the "Ichthy Camp" organized by the Louisiana Chapter. (Photo by Tobie Blanchard)

simultaneously. Thank you - what a tremendous honor then and now! I was just installed as President at the 2016 SDAFS Meeting at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV, and will later reflect on some of my goals for the coming year. But first and foremost, let me congratulate the WV AFS Chapter for hosting and conducting another well planned, hospitable, and efficient meeting. Of course this was largely due to staff from West Virginia University and the WV Division of



Alabama

Puerto Rico Arkansas South Carolina

Florida Tennessee

Georgia Texas

Kentucky Virginia

Louisiana Washington D.C.

Maryland West Indian

Islands Mississippi

North Carolina West Virginia

Oklahoma

Questions/Comments:

Sasha S. Doss

SDAFS Newsletter Editor dosss@vt.edu

#### (President's Message Continued)



Dave Coughlan enjoys a 2015 picnic with his hero, mentor, best friend, and wife – Melissa Coughlan

Natural Resources led by General Meeting Chair Dr. Pat Mazik and her many fine program and committee chairs and other assorted assistants. Thanks everyone! I also think it important that the students who worked at the meeting, in exchange for lodging, be recognized. The Southern Division will continue to spend a large portion of its budget to get students to participate in Southern Division Meetings; in exchange we will ask you to work and help us run an economical meeting. Thank you Student Volunteers and especially Nicole Rankin, the Student Affairs Committee Chair!

The Southern Division has a proud and storied history that has been built on the backs of its engaged

and active members. You folks working to support the SDAFS EXCOM, one of the SDAFS Standing or Technical Committees, a state chapter, or volunteering your services in some other way to support our aquatic resources, make us strong. As I stated in my opening

presidential remarks in Wheeling, I would like to do all I can to assist you in the course of your jobs and studies to be the safest and smartest fishery biologists in the AFS. My scope of work for the coming year will be concentrated in the areas of Safety and Professional Development. While some devastating family matters have kept me from actively pursuing both topics this spring, let me just make the following observation.

There are increasing numbers of social media posts depicting biologists in the process of electrofishing (whether via backpack, tote barge, or boat) without the use of electrofishing gloves! As a 30-yr biologist for an

electric utility, I can assure you that use of EF gloves was mandatory, no matter the weather conditions. We all know the 'techniques' books, USFWS training classes, etc., require safety gloves, yet some disregard this warning. While the use of EF gloves may not currently be state agency policy, there is no excuse for academicians demonstrating electrofishing techniques to students without the use of proper insulating gloves! Our educational leaders need to continually instill this safety behavior in our young biologists from the outset. Thanks to those professors who demand the use of electrofishing gloves by their students, you don't need to e-mail me; I guess I'll be hearing from the others? My modification of this line from the Reynolds chapter of the 1996 Fisheries Techniques book seems appropriate, "If an accident occurred, could I defend my practice before an independent investigative body or a particularly aggressive lawyer?" A good question to ponder—good luck with that lawyer!

I asked those in the audience in Wheeling if they purchased AFS books during end-of-year sales and got a good response. When I then asked the audience if those purchases were getting read in a timely manner, the reactions were

subdued. If you're like me, there are plenty of other distractions competing with my professional development. I challenged the audience to pick one of their unopened books and read it this year. If they did, I would similarly commit to reading a book of great interest to me . . . AFS Symposium 69 "Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment." It's not too late to take up the challenge—happy and productive reading! I'd like to know of your successes.

My own reading plans were completely ripped apart as my wife's almost two-year battle with Stage IV colo-rectal cancer ended this past April. She passed peacefully in her sleep and all of her family, friends, and colleagues were with her in the days preceding her death. My heartfelt acknowledgments go to those friends and colleagues who knew of our struggles and sent a card or flowers, kept us in their thoughts or said a prayer, donated to the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research, came to her memorial service, sent a consoling e-mail, or just called to see how things were going. Your support has been life affirming and totally appreciated. I'll try to get on that reading assignment in the second half of the year.

There are many upcoming conferences, and I would enjoy meeting and chatting with as many of you as possible. These conferences include the 2016 Annual AFS Meeting (Aug. 21-25 in Kansas City), the 70th SEAFWA Conference (Oct. 15-19 in Baton Rouge), and the 2017 SDAFS Meeting (Feb. 1-5 in Oklahoma City).

-Dave

## A Note from the Editor Sasha Doss, Newsletter Editor

As my time as a graduate student and as the newsletter editor comes to an end. I would be remiss if I didn't say that I am immensely thankful for all the opportunities this position has provided. I have met and worked with so many wonderful members throughout the Division and learned about their chapters, committees, and subunits. Unequivocally though, my favorite part of this job has been learning how others made their way into the profession and came to call the Southern Division home.

My story started with a presentation wrought with nervousness in Nashville, TN. I met lots of friendly faces that week and was relieved to know I had chosen not only work that I really enjoyed but also a profession with intelligent <u>and</u> comedic peers.

As I graduate and continue on my path to becoming a fisheries professional, I will never forget how the Southern Division fostered my roots and helped me become the more confident student and scientist I am now. Thank you all! – or – thank y'all!

Yours swimmingly, Sasha Doss



## Candidate Biographies

Vice President



#### J. Wesley (Wes) Neal

Background — I developed a love for the outdoors very early growing up in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia, where I spent most of my days turning over rocks looking for salamanders or in the Jackson River chasing Fallfish, Rock Bass, and Smallmouth Bass. When I headed off to Virginia Tech in 1990, my passion for the outdoors continued to evolve. I enrolled in the forestry and wildlife degree program, interned with river research projects, and realized that a life in fisheries management was for me. My next stop was North Carolina State University, where my M.S. degree focused on southern pond management, and my Ph.D. focused on tropical

reservoir ecology. After a brief stint as an adjunct instructor at Campbell University, I enjoyed a position at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for about four years until I was recruited to Mississippi State University in 2008. My research has focused on pond and reservoir fisheries management in warm temperate and tropical systems, and I serve as the state fisheries extension specialist. However, what really drives me professionally is working alongside promising students embarking on their own careers.

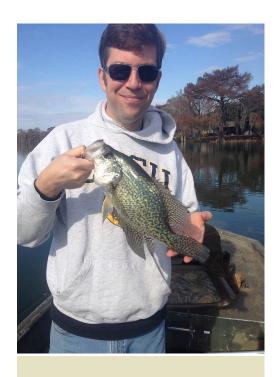
Professional Involvement — I have been an active member in the Society since 1993. I am an AFS Certified Fisheries Professional, and I have been a member of the Virginia Tech Chapter, North Carolina Chapter, Arkansas

Chapter, Mississippi Chapter, and am a founding member of the new Puerto Rico Chapter. I am on the Planning Committee for the 2018 Southern Division mid-year meeting to be held in sunny Puerto Rico (you are planning to attend, right?). I served as faculty advisor to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff sub-unit and am the current advisor to the Mississippi State University sub-unit. I served on the Mississippi Chapter EXCOM (2013-2016), as chair of the Southern Division's Small Impoundments Technical Committee (2010-2014), and have served and participated in many other AFS activities, groups, and committees. I am the associate editor for fisheries manuscripts to the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management. I conceived, designed, and served as lead editor on the AFS text Small Impoundment Management in North America, co-edited *Urban and Community* Fisheries Programs: Development, Management, and Evaluation, and am currently part of a new symposium and book project on angler recruitment

and retention.

#### (Candidates' Biographies Continued)

Vision — My vision for the Division is threefold: (1) to enhance student involvement and opportunities in the Division, (2) to improve communication of unbiased science to stakeholders and lawmakers, and (3) to proactively address evolving challenges to our natural resources. Our students are our future, and we must do everything in our power to ensure their professional growth and enrichment. Inherent in student development is teaching them to effectively communicate research and management knowledge. This is important not only in a professional forum, but also via outreach education to recreational and commercial anglers and to legislators who must be swayed into action (or inaction) as needed. These skills will be critical in our changing world, where a declining angler base, altered landscapes, and a changing climate threaten the very foundation of fisheries management as we know it.



#### Mike Kaller

Mike Kaller is an Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the School of Renewable Natural Resources and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Experimental Statistics at Louisiana State University. He has been with LSU and the LSU Agricultural Center for 11 years. Mike earned his B.S. from Lake Superior State University in 1997, his M.S. from West Virginia University in 2001, and his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 2005. He has been a member of AFS since 1995. As a faculty member, Mike's fisheries related teaching

responsibilities include
Techniques in Limnology and
Fisheries and Human Dimensions
of Natural Resources. He has
supervised 2 Ph.D. students and 8
M.S. students and served on 48
other graduate committees. Mike
and his graduate students have
investigated conservation of fish
habitat, benthic fishes, crayfishes,
and aquatic insects, as well as
diets of popular Atchafalaya River
sport fishes and Largemouth Bass
introgression.

Mike has served the Louisiana Chapter in a number of positions (President, 2014-2016; Meeting Co-Chair, 2013-2016; Meeting Organizing Committee, 2003, 2007-2010; Abstract Book Editor, 2008). He has served the Southern Division as Program Committee Chair for the 2009 Spring Meeting in New Orleans and on the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee (2006present). At the parent society level, he served as the Program Sub-Chair for Posters for the 2010 meeting in Pittsburgh. Additionally, he is a member of the Education Section (2002present). His service, specifically in organization and meeting planning across all levels of the AFS, provides unique experiences with membership across the AFS.

#### (Candidates' Biographies Continued)

Mike's research, service, and teaching experience has led to recognition of his efforts, including being awarded the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society President's Special Service Award in 2012, commended in a Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Meritorious Resolution in 2010, and recognized with presentation awards at the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meetings 2003, 2004, and 2005, the Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2001, and the Tri-State Fisheries Meeting in 2000. Outside of the AFS, he was the recipient of the Tiger Athletic Foundation College of Agriculture Teacher of the Year – Assistant Professor in 2013 and the LSU College of Agriculture Early Career Award in 2015. His students have won presentation awards at the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meetings in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2016 and the Spring Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society in 2009.

Additionally, his students have won the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Robert M. Jenkins Scholarship in 2009 and an American Fisheries Society John E. Skinner Memorial Award in 2010.

Mike has spent most of his educational and professional career in the Southern Division and believes that active membership and involvement in the Division was highly influential in his career. If elected, he pledges to enthusiastically support the Division's exemplary efforts in professionalism, information transfer, service, and student support. Specifically, Mike's goals would be to ensure that the Division continues to support and develop opportunities for students and early career professionals, giving back as he received from the Division.

#### Secretary - Treasurer



#### Kim Bonvechio

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

She has worked the majority of her career as a freshwater fisheries researcher with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Kim has collaborated with other professionals, within and outside the state agency, to implement and evaluate standardized sampling procedures for Florida's

#### (Candidates' Biographies Continued)

statewide long-term monitoring program. She has also participated on multiple teams and committees contributing to the development of several website, data management, statistical, and fisheries management projects. Within the AFS she has acted as a peer reviewer for various AFS journals and books, as a member of the Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee, as a member of the South Carolina and Florida Chapters, as a co-organizer for a professional Southern Division AFS workshop, as the creator of an online abjotic habitat manual for the Southern Division AFS Reservoir Committee, and as the Newsletter Editor for the Florida AFS Chapter.

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



#### Jill Hendon

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

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

Look for a message from the Listserv on how to vote for your favorite candidates!

#### (Candidates' Biographies Continued)

#### Student Representative



#### **Amy Cottrell**

I believe I exhibit the professional drive and character needed for this role. I am enthusiastic and hopeful about my educational experience and route to a professional career in fisheries science.

I am currently working towards my Master's Degree in Fisheries at Auburn University as a graduate research assistant under Steve Sammons. I am studying spawning behavior and habitat selection of Shoal Bass in two small Chattahoochee River tributaries. This past May I became the new AFS student subunit president. My

introduction to the American Fisheries Society came while I was an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. I held the presidential role for the AFS student subunit on campus and reestablished an inactive subunit. We volunteered on a regular basis with local professionals in the field and lab, and we were able to connect with our surrounding community on multiple levels. One of our larger accomplishments was planning and organizing an annual 5K fundraiser run in which we raised over \$3,000 for our subunit. I plan to infuse that same energy and enthusiasm into my role as subunit president at Auburn University.

I gave an oral presentation at the AFS meeting in Portland, OR, last August on a research project I was involved with through UW-Green Bay and the Shedd Aquarium. This research consisted of looking at the effects of dam removal and habitat restoration on migratory fishes. I attended and gave an oral presentation at the GA/AL AFS

annual meeting in Columbus, GA, this past February, as well as attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in 2015, and the Wisconsin state chapter meeting in 2014 and 2015.

My involvement with the AFS as an undergraduate student began opening so many doors for me academically and professionally, and I feel certain it is the medium on which I've been able to succeed. I would like to be the voice for all students of the Southern Division, as I know I will communicate promptly and effectively. My continued gratitude for the AFS is best paid back by helping other students enjoy their academic and professional journey and find success.

Thank you for your consideration!

#### (Candidates' Biographies Continued)



involvement with the Society and to find new ways for the Southern Division and the Society to support fisheries research at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

#### Dan Walker

Dan Walker is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. He received a B.S. degree in Biology from Appalachian State University in May 2012. At ASU he began working in the Aquatic Conservation Research Laboratory. He completed his first fisheries research project as an undergraduate, describing population and feeding characteristics of an understudied population of invasive Flathead Catfish in the lower Tar River, N.C. He went on to receive an M.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science with Dr. Larry Wilson at the University of Tennessee in May 2014. His thesis research investigated habitat selection and

partitioning among darters in the Clinch River system.

Dan is currently a Ph.D. student with Dr. Brian Alford, His dissertation research is focused on quantifying the availability of habitat and areas of critical importance for Lake Sturgeon in the Upper Tennessee River. He recently had the first chapter of his dissertation, where he used side scan sonar to map Lake Sturgeon spawning habitat, accepted for publication by the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. He is passionate about encouraging student-led research and hopes to use his voice as the Student Representative to advocate for student opportunities for

#### **Matthew Acre**

I achieved my B.S. from Texas
A&M University and then joined
the Peace Corps in 2010. I
served in the West African
country of Cape Verde as an
ecologist for the Protected
Areas of the country. I advised
local and national authorities on
wildlife and fisheries regulations
and implemented a new section
of protected area under the
supervision of the United
Nations. I also wrote the first
biodiversity report of Boa Vista,

#### (Candidates' Biographies Continued)

Cape Verde, collecting data on Humpback Whales, lizard populations, commercial fisheries stocks, shorebird populations, and a variety of other organisms on Boa Vista and the surrounding coastal waters.

Mv PhD work focuses on the influence of flow regime on Blue Sucker reproductive ecology, recruitment, and habitat use in the lower Colorado River in central Texas. I have taken on many roles outside of research, such as that of teaching assistant and lecturer, as well as being heavily involved with graduate student organizations, including the university chapter of the American Fisheries Society at Texas Tech University. I am running for the student representative to the Executive Committee of the SDAFS to provide a voice to the students as those who have served before have done. I look forward to serving the student body of the SDAFS.



#### **Kasey Pregler**

I am approaching the end of my second year as a PhD student at Clemson University where I work with Yoichiro Kanno in the Wildlife and Fisheries department. My dissertation involves the study of species distributions and population dynamics of freshwater fishes in South Carolina. I have been a member of the AFS since 2011 and the SDAFS since 2014. I have also been involved with the Northeastern Division and the Southern New England chapter while at school for my BS and MS at the University of Connecticut. I am currently

working to get our Clemson student chapter up and running again - it was recognized by the AFS this past spring.

As for recent service for the AFS, I co-taught an occupancymodeling workshop with Than Hitt from West Virginia USGS Leetown at the SDAFS meeting in Wheeling, WV. Additionally, I serve as a reviewer for the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. I am also a Skinner Award recipient for the upcoming national meeting in Kansas City. During my time as a student, the AFS has afforded me numerous networking and professional opportunities, and I would like to pay that forward with this service position.

## Meeting Announcements

146<sup>th</sup> Annual AFS Meeting
International Association of Astacology Conference
6<sup>th</sup> International Billfish Symposium
70<sup>th</sup> Annual SEAFWA Meeting
Southeastern Fishes Council Annual Meeting
SDAFS Annual Meeting
147<sup>th</sup> Annual AFS Meeting

August  $21^{st} - 25^{th}$ September  $5^{th} - 8^{th}$ September  $14^{th} - 17^{th}$ October  $15^{th} - 19^{th}$ November  $10^{th} - 11^{th}$ Jan.  $30^{th} - \text{Feb. } 5^{th}$ August  $20^{th} - 24^{th}$ 



## 2016 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

August 21–25 146th Annual Meeting



## 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

Kansas City, MO August 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Missouri Chapter and North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to attend the 146th AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City, August 21-25, 2016. This year's theme is: Fisheries Conservation and Management: Making Connections and Building Partnerships.

The 2016 Annual Meeting offers a chance to present your science to experts from around the world, enhance your job skills with handson Continuing Education Workshops, see the latest technology in the Trade Show, and network with colleagues old and new. This year's hotel and conference center are all under one roof at the Sheraton Kansas City at the Crown Center, giving vou more free time to see presentations, meet with collaborators, and explore the city. And Kansas City's affordable, central location, combined with its

thriving arts culture, nightlife, and stunning natural resources, means that there is something for everyone to enjoy in August 2016!

Early bird registration ends July 8<sup>th</sup>!

#### (Meeting Announcements Continued)



21st Symposium of the International Association of Astacology (IAA)

The IAA will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> biennial conference in Madrid, Spain, September 5-8. Research will be presented on all aspects of crayfish, including conservation, ecology, invasions, systematics, diseases, and aquaculture. The conference will be preceded by a 1-day workshop on "Conservation plans for endangered species facing the threat of emerging diseases and invasive species". Following the conference, a 4-day field tour will take participants to crayfish sites, national parks, and historic sites in Spain. The deadline for abstract submissions is June 20, 2016. For more information on the meeting, please visit the IAA21 website <a href="http://iaa21rjb.es/">http://iaa21rjb.es/</a>. Also, please note that first year membership in IAA is <a href="https://www.freshwatercrayfish.org/">FREE</a> for students. For more information about IAA, please see our website <a href="http://www.freshwatercrayfish.org/">https://www.freshwatercrayfish.org/</a>.



#### 6<sup>th</sup> International Billfish Symposium

September 14-17, 2016 -- Dania Beach, Florida, USA

CALL FOR PAPERS AND ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Deadline for Abstracts and Early conference Registration July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

We welcome abstract submissions for contributed oral presentations, posters, and videos, as well as suggestions for roundtable discussions from a truly multidisciplinary audience on these themes: Management, Assessment, Movement & Habitat Utilization, and Basic Biology. Individuals and institutions interested in chairing and organizing sessions are asked to express their interest to Dr. David Kerstetter at kerstett@nova.edu by July 15, 2016.

#### (Meeting Announcements Continued)

Submitted abstracts will be considered by the Symposium Steering Committee. The conference will try to avoid concurrent sessions. Due to limited time for oral presentations, some of the submitted abstracts may be recommended for a poster presentation.

Participants will be notified before August 1, 2016, on the status of their presentation. Presenters of accepted abstracts will need to register for the conference. People already registered for the conference will have their registration fee refunded if their abstract is not accepted and they do not wish to participate.

Don't Delay- Register Today!

#### **Abstract Format:**

All abstracts should be submitted through the conference website www.bfsymposium.org. The conference language is English.

Abstracts are limited to 200 words. Type the abstract as one paragraph, single-line spacing and single-space between sentences (you can type the abstract in your word processing package and copy and paste this into the online form if you wish.) Do not cite references or use abbreviations. Ensure that the abstract states the main

objectives, findings, and conclusions of your paper.

#### **Contact Symposium Co-Chairs:**

Jason Schratwieser: jschratwieser@igfa.org David Kerstetter: kerstett@nova.edu

\*Presenters will have an opportunity to submit a paper for publication in a special issue of ICES Journal of Marine Science following the symposium.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Annual SEAFWA Conference

Baton Rouge, LA October 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is a forum for the exchange of ideas and critical information regarding the management and protection of fish and wildlife resources primarily in the southeast. The conference attracts over 500 representatives from state and federal agencies, citizen's organizations, universities, private wildlife research groups, fisheries and wildlife scientists, agency enforcement personnel, and other natural resource-related organizations.

Hosted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, "Conserving Vital Habitats." will be held at the Hilton Hotel in the arts and entertainment district of downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana, along the Mississippi River. The Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center was inducted into the Historic Hotels of America in November 2014 and is the only historical hotel in the city. While staying at the Hilton, guests will enjoy easy access to the Shaw Art Center, USS Kid and Naval Museum, LSU, Louisiana Old State Capitol, and all that downtown Baton Rouge has to offer.

# The Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC) Annual Meeting

Jackson, MS November 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The SFC Annual Meeting will be held November 10th-11th at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS. The SFC is a nonprofit scientific organization dedicated to the study and conservation of freshwater and coastal fishes of the southeastern United States. The southeastern region includes the greatest global

#### (Meeting Announcements Continued)

biodiversity of temperate freshwater fishes, and has well over one-half of all species found in North America. The SFC was formed by a group of scientists concerned with increasing environmental threats to rivers of the Southeast, and long-term protection of the southeastern fish fauna. Please check the SFC website for updates on their annual meeting at http://www.sefishescouncil.org/.

## 2017 Annual SDAFS Meeting

Oklahoma City, OK January 30<sup>th</sup> - February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Oklahoma Chapter is hosting the spring meeting January 30-February 5, 2017 at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. The convention center is an ideal setting for this gathering of professionals with spacious accommodations and nearby access to historic Bricktown that includes wining, dining, and more.

Where else can one find natural populations of bison and antelope

along with alligators and bowfin within the boundary of one state? Oklahoma boasts of having more shoreline and ecoregions than any other state and is worth the trip.

Be on the lookout for additional information at the SDAFS website. A call for symposia, poster and oral presentations, and workshops will be forthcoming on the web and on the SDAFS listsery.

In the meantime, if you have questions or need more information, contact the General Chair, Kurt Kuklinski at <a href="mailto:kurt.kuklinski@odwc.ok.gov">kurt.kuklinski@odwc.ok.gov</a> or at 405-325-7288.



(Meeting Announcements Continued)

## 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society

Tampa, FL August 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to beautiful Tampa, Florida for the 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society to be held August 20-24, 2017. Located on the central west Florida coast. Tampa is located on Tampa Bay, Florida's largest open-water estuary and the economic and environmental centerpiece of this rapidly growing region. The meeting theme will be "Fisheries Ecosystems: Uplands to Oceans" and we invite professionals to come together to present and discuss diverse approaches to managing and conserving our world's natural resources. It will be an exciting and engaging experience for all...you won't want to miss it!

If you plan to attend Kansas City in August 2016 for the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual AFS Meeting, please stop by the Florida Chapter AFS tradeshow booth and pick up a free 2017 AFS Meeting coozie!!!



# AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 147TH ANNUAL MEETING TAMPA, FLORIDA

AUGUST 20-24, 2017

## Southern Division Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting Minutes

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Spring Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, 18 February 2016
Oglebay Resort and Conference Center – Banquet Room 1
Wheeling, West Virginia

President Dennis Riecke called the EXCOM meeting to order at 1536 hrs. Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Riecke called roll and the following proxies were identified: Dennis Riecke as proxy for the Alabama and Auburn Chapters, John Jackson as proxy for the Arkansas Chapter, Wes Neal as proxy for the Mississippi and Puerto Rico Chapters, Dave Coughlan as proxy for the North Carolina Chapter, Barry Bolton as proxy for the Oklahoma Chapter, Jason Henegar as proxy for the Tennessee Chapter, and Craig Bonds as proxy for the Texas Chapter. Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, Dennis Riecke; Past President, John Jackson; President-Elect, Dave Coughlan; Vice President, Wes Porak; and Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio).

President Riecke presented the Spring EXCOM Meeting agenda. Vice President Porak made a motion to accept the agenda and President-Elect Coughlan seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **SDAFS President Report**

President Riecke announced that AFS President Ron Essig, AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, and AFS Policy Director Tom Bigford are on the agenda and will report to the EXCOM if they arrived in time and/or will speak at the Business Meeting. President Riecke then summarized his past year of service commenting that he spent considerable time revising all division information on the SDAFS website and expanding a spreadsheet that lists chapter presidents, committee chairs and those who serve in appointed or elected leadership roles. At the end of the year, the SDAFS website was hacked. With the help of Sara Gilbert-Fox at AFS, most of the information on the old SDAFS website was transferred over to the more secure AFS server. Former SDAFS webmaster Zachary Martin resigned and has been succeeded by Hae Kim. He urged all committees to keep their information current and encouraged them to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) for banking purposes. President Riecke did attend several chapter meetings, including Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and the joint Georgia/Alabama meetings. He commended the efforts to bring about the joint Georgia/Alabama meeting in Columbus, Georgia. Finally, he addressed the issue of finances and the need for the SDAFS to find additional revenue streams to support donations and student travel.

#### **SDAFS Officer Reports**

President-Elect Coughlan stated the President-Elect report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book. He added that a lot of the AFS functions are being done by a small group in the Management Committee. As a

#### (EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

member, he has participated on monthly conference calls involving topics such as finances and student subunit and chapter bylaws. This role will be taken over by incoming Vice President Craig Bonds after the 2016 AFS Annual Business Meeting.

Vice President Porak noted that one of the roles of the Vice President is to review SDAFS technical committees or chapters, as warranted. The Kentucky Chapter has not held a meeting since 2012, so Vice President Porak reached out to some of the biologists in Kentucky in an attempt to re-invigorate the chapter. Some of the biologists and fish chief were enthusiastic about the possibility, so hopefully progress will be made in the coming year. Vice President Porak also reviewed the Nongame Aquatics Technical Committee. This committee has been inactive for a long time, and in 2013, Immediate Past President Jackson did a review of the Committee and found there was limited interest in re-invigorating it. Instead, the Southeastern Fishes Council may serve the same role as this committee. Vice President Porak reached out to the Southeastern Fishes Council to possibly partner with them in the future. Additional discussion ensued later in the meeting.

Immediate Past President Jackson stated the Past President report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book. Two noteworthy efforts this past year included attending the Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting as the SDAFS representative and revising/updating the SDAFS Procedure Manual.

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio's reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2015 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2015 SDAFS Newsletter and in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book, as well as posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no revisions, Bryant Bowen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and President-Elect Coughlan seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio reported the 2014 SDAFS tax return was submitted prior to the deadline. The 2015 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The SDAFS started 2015 with \$17,299.91 (\$7,765.93 carry over from 2014 and \$9,533.98 of temporary holding of Catfish Management Technical Committee funds) and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Savannah Meeting (\$6,858.00) and the AFS dues rebate (\$6,208.00). The SDAFS received \$60 from the Society for book sale rebates, which was dispersed to appropriate technical committees. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio explained that the Catfish Management Technical Committee was able to open a new bank account with BB&T by creating a new EIN for "banking purposes." Therefore, these funds were transferred back to the technical committee. Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and discussed. The SDAFS provided financial support to the SDAFS Student Affairs Committee (\$5,169.40); the AFS Equal Opportunity Section (\$500); the 2015 SEAFWA Meeting (\$1,000 to support the Student Professional Luncheon); and the 2016 joint Georgia/Alabama AFS meeting (\$500). Various other expenses (e.g., awards, plaques, internet service, officer travel, podcasting coordinator travel, etc.) were expensed as needed. Ballot and electronic meeting expenses were eliminated in 2015 by using AFS-provided services. Total assets in the Southern Division's checking account as of 31 December were \$10,781.80, but one check distributed to Virginia Tech for website and newsletter services for \$1,000 had

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not yet cleared. This total includes \$6,000, which is set aside in a Strategic Reserve Fund. President Riecke commented that officer travel included travel to Portland for him and President-Elect Coughlan to represent the SDAFS at the AFS Governing Board meeting in Portland. Bryant Bowen commented that the Georgia Chapter does not usually solicit funds from the SDAFS, but this year, their effort to help the Alabama Chapter become re-established resulted in higher than normal expenses. The Georgia Chapter thanked the SDAFS for their \$500 donation. Discussion ensued about the history and future of the Alabama and Auburn Chapters from President Riecke. Vice President Porak also updated the EXCOM on Kentucky Chapter's efforts to partner with the Tennessee Chapter or The Wildlife Society for a possible joint meeting.

Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances were in agreement. An audit of the 2015 financial information was completed 12 January 2016 by the SDAFS Audit Committee and reported to President Riecke . Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio made a motion to accept the Audit Committee's report which was seconded by Vice President Porak. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Proposed 2016 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio explained that the Student Affairs and Officer Travel expenses make up the majority of the EXCOM expenses. Projected income in 2016 is \$11,551.50 with \$3,781.80 carried over from 2015, and expenses are projected at \$10,920.00 for an end-ofyear balance of \$4,413.30. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained at \$6,000. Riecke mentioned that the web hosting charges (Host Gator) will be eliminated in the future once the SDAFS website and all SDAFS Chapters and Technical Committee sites are fully migrated to the AFS server. President-Elect Coughlan noted that donations are subject to the state of the EXCOM budget but would like to continue efforts to provide student financial support (e.g., student professional luncheon) at the annual SEAFWA meeting. Some discussion occurred regarding the Student Affairs funds and how those funds should be distributed. It was clarified that a total of \$4,000 should be allocated for student travel, which is typically used to cover hotel costs for the SDAFS meeting. It was also suggested by Past President Jackson that the EXCOM consider changing the "first-come, first-serve" process and instead establish a deadline and distribute funds based on the needs of each student. Undergraduate students, in particular, do not typically have as much financial support as graduate students. A motion was made by Vice President Porak and seconded by Craig Bonds to approve the 2016 budget. After further discussion about the SEAFWA donation, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A summary of the financial issues plaguing some of the technical committees was provided by Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio. She explained that the Catfish Management Technical Committee was able to open a new banking account by registering for a new EIN for "banking purposes only." The Reservoir Technical Committee was also able to resolve its years-long dispute with Edward Jones, which revoked its tax exempt status because the name on the account did not match the name registered to the EIN on the account (AFS Fish Management Section). Edward Jones also notified the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee of a similar discrepancy between the name on the account and the EIN registered to that account. Both issues were resolved in 2015, with each account registered as tax exempt using the SDAFS EIN. Given the structure of

#### (EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

the SDAFS with the different self-governing technical committees, it was suggested that Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio investigate how AFS and other divisions are handling these types of issues to determine the best course of action for the SDAFS.

#### **Reports from Committees with Action Items**

President Riecke notified the EXCOM that a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2016 SDAFS Meeting in Wheeling was drafted. Past President Jackson made a motion to take the resolution to the business meeting to be presented to members. Craig Bonds seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Chapter Reports**

**Host Comments** – Pat Mazik welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reported that the current registration number was similar to the previous SDAFS meeting held at the same location in 2008. She was also encouraged by the number of technical sessions, posters, technical committee meetings, and symposia scheduled. She finished by making several other meeting and housekeeping announcements.

**Alabama** – President Riecke, proxy for the Alabama Chapter, noted the report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Arkansas** – Past President Jackson, proxy for the Arkansas Chapter, noted the report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Auburn University** – President Riecke, proxy for the Auburn Chapter, noted that the report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Florida – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Georgia** – Bryant Bowen, proxy for the Georgia Chapter, noted the report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book. He expressed the Chapter's appreciation to the SDAFS for their donation to host the 2016 Alabama/Georgia joint meeting. He also announced that proceeds from the 2015 SDAFS Meeting in Savannah will be used to set up a student travel stipend fund.

**Kentucky** – Not present. No report submitted.

Louisiana – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Mississippi - Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

North Carolina - Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Oklahoma – Not Present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Potomac** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Puerto Rico** – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book. Wes Neal, proxy for Puerto Rico, reiterated the desire of the Puerto Rico Chapter to host the 2018 SDAFS meeting. President Riecke requested that a formal written intention to host the meeting approved by the Chapter members be submitted to the EXCOM within the next two weeks in order to solidify the 2018 meeting location. Craig Bonds noted that the Texas Chapter is prepared to host the 2018 meeting in the event that Puerto Rico cannot do so.

**South Carolina** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Tennessee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

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**Texas** – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book. Craig Bonds, proxy for the Texas Chapter, noted that the Texas Chapter members voted to host the 2019 SDAFS meeting but are prepared to host in 2018 if necessary.

**Tidewater** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Virginia – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Virginia Tech** – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

West Virginia – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Alligator Gar Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Aquaculture Technical Committee –** Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Catfish Management Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

Non-game Aquatics Technical Committee – No report submitted.

**Reservoir Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Small Impoundments Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Striped Bass Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Trout Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Warmwater Streams Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Pollutions Ad Hoc Committee** - Report stands as written in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

President Riecke noted that reports for these and other committees, including SDAFS Awards, Resolution, and Student Affairs, as well as from other positions, including the SDAFS Representative to SEAFWA, webmaster, and listserv administrator, are provided in the 2016 SDAFS Briefing Book.

#### **Other Old Business**

President Riecke opened the floor to other old business, but hearing none, moved on to new business.

#### **New Business**

Past President Jackson provided an update on revisions to the SDAFS Procedure Manual, which has not been updated in at least a decade. Work was divided among the SDAFS officers, and suggested changes (such as removing names of individuals that can change over time) are being made. Given proposed changes to technical committees to be discussed and other suggestions provided by Pat Mazik, additional changes will be necessary and will be handled by President Riecke in the coming year. Past President Jackson gave an estimated timeline of six months for completion of the Procedure Manual revisions.

President-Elect Coughlan made a motion to disband the SDAFS Nongame Aquatics Technical Committee. The motion was seconded by Immediate Past President Jackson. Discussion was then facilitated by President Riecke. Vice President Porak summarized conversations with different people with previous involvement with

#### (EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

the Nongame Aquatics Technical Committee, as well as members of the Southeastern Fishes Council. It was his understanding that there is little interest in continuing the Technical Committee within SDAFS, and that the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee could take on the same role. Bryant Bowen concurred, noting that many of the non-game biologists within the SDAFS already belong to the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee. As an aside, Past President Jackson said that the Nongame Aquatics Technical Committee had been struggling for years to find enough people to take on leadership roles within the Committee and keep it afloat, a pattern that should serve as a warning sign for any committee that its future may be in trouble. Following this discussion, President Riecke asked for a vote on the motion. No abstentions were reported and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

President-Elect Coughlan gave an overview of the Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC). The SFC holds an annual meeting in the fall of each year and has a similar function as the SDAFS but with a particular focus on nongame species. Vice President Porak listed reasons for partnering with the SFC including: improving communications, helping both organizations grow stronger, and facilitating cooperative efforts for future conservation initiatives. This partnership would involve sharing newsletters, sending announcements about meetings and other opportunities through the listserv, and linking to each other's websites. Possible future goals were also presented, such as soliciting more non-game presentations and symposia at future SDAFS meetings, offering SFC members space at future SDAFS meetings, offering possible tiered registration costs or complimentary registration for a leader to attend each other's meetings, and using SDAFS funds to help sponsor a SFC symposium at a future SDAFS meeting. With increasing emphasis on non-game fish species and the amount of overlap between the two organizations, EXCOM members agreed that a partnership with the SFC would be beneficial to the future of both organizations and conservation efforts of non-game fishes.

President Riecke brought up the idea of a tiered SDAFS spring meeting registration fee. When a person attends the AFS Annual Meeting, she or he pays a higher registration cost if not a member of the AFS. Although the SDAFS gets a rebate for each AFS member within the division, it is unclear how many registrants are members and how much money the SDAFS gets per member. Different options were discussed, including (1) offering a registration discount for AFS members, by either a percentage or set amount; (2) tacking on AFS membership dues to the registration cost for the annual SDAFS meeting; (3) adding a \$5-10 student support fee; (4) improving financial management for future SDAFS meetings to maximize meeting revenue; and (5) encouraging technical committees to split fees for workshops or symposia for general meeting revenue or student support. A tiered registration would serve two purposes: 1) to increase revenue for SDAFS for operating expenses and student support and 2) send the message that AFS membership has its privileges. Concerns were raised that increasing registration costs could result in reduced attendance at the SDAFS meetings, as some Chapters have a low percentage of AFS members. Also, it is unclear how meeting organizers can verify that SDAFS registrants are AFS members. Past President Jackson reiterated that AFS membership, not Chapter membership, is required to be a member of the SDAFS. Some Chapters offer to pay for AFS membership for elected officers, but not all. Also, some state agencies offer pay incentive for AFS

#### (EXCOM Meeting Minutes Continued)

certification, which encourages employees to keep their AFS membership up-to-date. It was mentioned that a set of guidelines be established for SDAFS meeting organizers to help maximize meeting revenue. Future discussion will take place after the EXCOM officers assess the proportion of members who attend the SDAFS meeting, how much money per member is allotted to the SDAFS, other business models used by other divisions of AFS, and ways to handle registration that involves a member versus nonmember rate.

President Riecke noted the upcoming meeting locations. Oklahoma City will host the SDAFS meeting in 2017. Arkansas submitted a formal request to host the SDAFS meeting in 2020. Craig Bonds made the motion to approve the request, which was then seconded by Vice President Porak. Past President Jackson noted that the SDAFS meeting in 2020 will correspond with the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee's 2020 Catfish Symposium. No abstentions were reported and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Wes Neal is in contact with Miguel Garcia from Puerto Rico to make known what needs to be done before Puerto Rico can secure the 2018 SDAFS meeting location, specifically a vote by Puerto Rico Chapter members to host the meeting and the identification of 8-12 people to form a planning committee. Craig Bonds made a motion to approve Texas for hosting the SDAFS meeting in 2019, contingent upon Puerto Rico hosting in 2018. Motion was seconded by Vice President Porak. After discussion, the motion was amended such that Texas will agree to host the SDAFS meeting in 2018 should Puerto Rico not be able to do so. No abstentions were reported and both the original and amended motions carried by unanimous vote.

Bryant Bowen made a motion to change the status of the Pollution Committee from an ad hoc committee to a technical committee. Discussion ensued. Past President Jackson mentioned that a formal request would be sent out to state agencies in the SDAFS region to appoint a representative for the committee. Bowen mentioned that the Pollution Committee is a larger effort with the ultimate goal of becoming a committee under the Water Quality Section of AFS. It was noted that some current members are outside the SDAFS, but any officers will need to become SDAFS members in the future. Vice President Porak said this opportunity allows the SDAFS to take a lead in a national initiative. Craig Bonds also added that the multiple projects, e.g., establishing values for other species groups (such as gastropods and marine fishes), are in the queue for the committee, which justifies elevating it to full technical committee status. No abstentions were reported and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Vice President Porak provided an update on the Black Bass Ad Hoc Committee. The future direction of the committee is unclear at this time.

Following no further new business or discussion items, President Riecke adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 1745 hrs.

#### **SDAFS Business Meeting Minutes**

Southern Division American Fisheries Society
Annual Business Meeting
Friday, 19 February 2016
Olgebay Resort and Conference Center – Glessner Auditorium
Wheeling, West Virginia

The 2016 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1731 hrs by President Dennis Riecke. Current SDAFS officers were present: Dave Coughlan, President-Elect; Wes Porak, Vice President; John Jackson, Immediate Past President; and Kim Bonvechio, Secretary-Treasurer. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio confirmed a quorum was present. Vice President Porak passed out the agenda and resolution to all in attendance. After a short explanation of revisions to the agenda, Larry Conner made a motion to approve, which was then seconded by Lawrence Dorsey and Tom Bigford. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Riecke recognized distinguished guests in attendance: AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS Policy Director Tom Bigford, AFS Director of Communications Martha Wilson, AFS Associate Director of Student and Professional Education Jessica Mosley, AFS President Ron Essig, AFS First Vice President and SDAFS Past President Steve McMullin, SDAFS Immediate Past President John Jackson, and Past SDAFS Presidents Larry Connor, Pat Mazik, and Brian Murphy.

AFS President Ron Essig's Remarks: President Essig expressed his gratitude for being at this and last year's SDAFS meeting, given his roots with Georgia Department of Natural Resources early in his career. AFS is in a strategic planning process for AFS Communications, and members are asked to comment on a draft plan available on the AFS website. AFS Director of Communications Martha Wilson will be spearheading efforts to improve society communications. Also, the new and more user-friendly AFS website is now online, so he encouraged everyone to take a look at that. President Essig noted an increase in the number of new AFS members identified as students and young professionals, which now comprise about 36% of the total membership. At last count, total AFS membership stands at about 8,000. President Essig also mentioned the proposed creation of an AFS Imperiled Aquatic Species Section, an effort in which SDAFS member Gene Wilde has been involved. It is currently out for comment, then will be voted on by the membership before it can officially become a section. Finally, he mentioned the upcoming 2016 AFS Meeting which will be held in Kansas City, MO from August 21-25, 2016. He encouraged attendees to speak with him and other AFS staff throughout the SDAFS meeting to express their concerns and provide input about what's working/what's not working in AFS.

**AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks:** Executive Director Austen expressed his gratitude for being "in the heart of the Southern Division" at this year's SDAFS meeting. He re-introduced the new AFS Director of

#### (Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

Communications Martha Wilson, who works with Sarah Harrison [Managing Editor of Fisheries magazine] and Beth Beard [Digital Content and Engagement Strategist for AFS]. He invited attendees to speak with Martha Wilson about ideas, challenges, and opportunities regarding any of the AFS communication channels including the website, Fisheries magazine, and social media outlets. He also re-introduced AFS Associate Director of Student and Professional Education Jessica Mosley, who works with continuing education, as well as with Cynthia Oboh and the Hutton Program. He then mentioned AFS Policy Director Tom Bigford who will lead the conversation about new policy recommendations that will be given to the incoming U.S. presidential administration to help them understand and address future aquatic resource needs. Through this initiative, AFS is taking a leadership role in Washington, D.C., bringing together fisheries professionals with marine and freshwater backgrounds from federal, state, and nongovernmental agencies. He invited everyone to the upcoming AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City in August. He noted there are 39 symposia scheduled, including the "Big Rivers" symposium. After Kansas City, Tampa will host in 2017, Atlantic City in 2018, and Reno in 2019. The Reno meeting will be the first time that the AFS will host a joint meeting with The Wildlife Society. This will likely be one of the largest natural resources meetings to date. Many of the AFS Chapters are taking advantage of the AFS investment pool, which has been averaging approximately 7-8% annual return. AFS is also interested in helping with other services as well, including web sites. Any comments, suggestions, or concerns can be brought to his attention or to the attention of Tom Bigford and Ron Essig.

**SDAFS President Riecke's Address:** Along with Past President Jackson and President-Elect Coughlan, President Riecke has represented the SDAFS at the AFS Governing Board and AFS Annual Meeting in Portland. During his tenure as President, Riecke also updated all of the division-related content on the SDAFS website (e.g., updated the contact list). He further highlighted a few of the recent decisions that the EXCOM has reached. 1) The Nongame Aquatics Technical Committee was disbanded. At the same time, the SDAFS is reaching out to the Southeastern Fishes Council to strengthen our relationship with them. 2) The Pollution Ad Hoc Committee was elevated to Technical Committee status. This committee was originally formed to revise fish-kill monetary guidelines for fish and mussels. 3) Discounted SDAFS meeting registration rates for AFS members will be discussed in the coming year.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio's Report: Minutes from the 2015 Savannah Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2015 SDAFS Newsletter and posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, Bryant Bowen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by John Odenkirk. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio then reported that the Audit Committee completed their audit of the 2015 budget in January 2016, and their report was accepted by the EXCOM. She provided an overview of the 2015 budget, both expenses and income. Hearing no questions or concerns, John Odenkirk made a motion to approve the 2015 budget, which was seconded by President-Elect Coughlan. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio presented the 2016 budget, including expected income, expenses, and donations. Hearing no questions or concerns, an AFS member made a motion

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to approve the 2016 budget, which was seconded by another AFS member. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Host Chapter Report: West Virginia Chapter General Meeting Chair Pat Mazik welcomed attendees to Wheeling. Mazik noted registered attendees totaled approximately 250 (at time of Business Meeting), similar to the attendance of the 2008 meeting held at the same location. Committees met on Thursday, seven workshops were held on Friday, and technical sessions and symposia will take place over the weekend. She thanked the Planning Committee, including Kyle Hartman (Program Chair), Stuart Welsh (Program Co-Chair, Symposia), Frank Borsuk (Program Co-Chair, Workshops), Erin Thayer and Dave Thorne (Posters), Dave Wellman (Student Affairs Chair), Lara Hedrick (Fundraising Chair), Jim Hedrick (Webmaster/AV/Technology Chair), Brandon Keplinger (Finance Chair), and Scott Morrison (Registration Chair). A special note of gratitude was given to West Virginia DNR and students for their help with the meeting.

President-Elect Dave Coughlan's Chapter Activity Report: President-Elect Coughlan provided some highlights from the Chapter reports. After 20 years of inactivity, the Alabama Chapter has re-emerged. They recently had a joint meeting with the Georgia Chapter and over 170 people attended. The Arkansas Chapter just celebrated its 30th anniversary and has six student subunits. They have been offering a large number of continuing education classes for their members and sharing their knowledge through outreach events with various public and school groups. The Auburn Chapter has awarded \$2,325 in travel assistance to 25 students in 2015 and raised a total of \$7,250 by selling shrimp! The Florida Chapter hosted their 35th annual meeting in Ocala and is gearing up to host the 2017 AFS Meeting in Tampa. They presented SDAFS Past President Larry Connor the Rich Cailteux Award for career contributions to fisheries. The Georgia Chapter hosted the highly successful SDAFS Meeting in Savannah last year, with over 700 registered attendees. The Chapter also hosted the first edition of the Southeastern High School Kayak Fishing Championships, a potential fertile ground for recruiting future fisheries professionals. The Louisiana Chapter had 151 attendees at their recent annual meeting and hosted a fish identification workshop. The Mississippi Chapter presented Steve Miranda with the Lifetime Achievement Award at their 2015 annual meeting. North Carolina Chapter members judged fisheries papers at the 2015 SEAFWA meeting in Asheville, NC. At their annual meeting, they also hosted a crayfish identification workshop with 25 attendees. The Oklahoma Chapter revamped their website and sponsored a fish-kill investigation workshop. They are also gearing up to host the 2017 SDAFS meeting in Oklahoma City. The Potomac Chapter frequently interacts with AFS staff in Bethesda, MD and gets involved with national initiatives. The Puerto Rico Chapter is collaborating with SARP in the restoration of connectivity for five major rivers and is strongly being considered to host the 2018 SDAFS meeting. Last year's meeting of the South Carolina Chapter at Santee State Park had 122 attendees. The Clemson Student Subunit has re-emerged and recently had their student bylaws approved. The Tennessee Chapter held their annual meeting at the Tennessee Aquarium and are getting the message out about their chapter and fisheries issues via a listsery, website, Facebook, and newsletter. The Texas Chapter continues to foster their relationship with The Patsy B.

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Hollandsworth Family Foundation, which contributes \$17,500 to the Texas Chapter AFS Endowment fund supporting a wide array of scholarships. The 2015 Tidewater Chapter held their annual meeting in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. The Virginia, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia Chapters held a joint meeting in 2015. The Virginia Tech Chapter held its 32nd Annual Mudbass Classic Kid's Fishing Tournament. Members also got valuable fisheries experience by partnering with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologists. The West Virginia Chapter activities focused on putting on this SDAFS meeting.

Vice President Wes Porak's Technical Committee Report: Vice President Porak noted that the Southern Division has more active technical committees than any other division and we should be proud of their annual contributions to fisheries science. He recognized some of the achievements and accomplishments of these technical committees from 2015. The Pollution Technical Committee is in the process of updating the Special Publication #30 entitled Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills. Committee members are also involved with a comprehensive survey of state agencies to identify procedures, agency responsibilities and trainings for fish kill investigations, experiences with assigning monetary values to kill events. The Warmwater Streams Technical Committee held a workshop at last year's SDAFS meeting titled Standardization and Management of Fish Data for Rivers and Streams of the Southern U.S. At the same meeting, they also held a symposium titled Meeting our Data Needs with Limited Resources: Recent Advances in Stream Sampling Techniques. Both of these initiatives were important for advancing the aquatic sciences in the southern U.S. The Reservoir Technical Committee provides expertise to the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership and is updating the Reservoir Habitat Manual, which increases awareness of reservoir habitat impairments and directs research to address reservoir habitat needs. The committee is also working on another reservoir habitat survey. The Small Impoundments Technical Committee initiated a study to control recruitment of largemouth bass in small impoundments as a management tool. Members also provided continuing education opportunities at a variety of different levels. The Trout Technical Committee is in their 49th year and is active in the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a fish-habitat partnership which serves to conserve Eastern Brook Trout and their habitats. They are also working with geneticists to update the Committee's position statement Managing Southern Appalachian Brook Trout first published in 2005. The Committee continues to develop MicroFish, a free Windows-based software package designed to assist fisheries managers with analysis of removal depletion data. The Catfish Management Technical Committee has been developing a database of state regulations for recreational and commercial catfish fisheries. They also have started planning for Catfish 2020 symposium and book. The Striped Bass Technical Committee is working on a website that will provide data, reports, statewide regulations, and state stocking data for Striped Bass. The Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee members are working on range-wide management plans for Guadalupe Bass and Shoal Bass. This committee works collaboratively with SARP on a native black bass initiative to advance the science and conservation of black bass species in the southern U.S. The Alligator Gar Technical Committee has been active exchanging information on program development and sampling techniques, which has helped agencies new to sampling for Alligator Gar. The Committee also created an Alligator Gar Spawning Habitat Suitability Index. Both of these activities have been

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valuable for developing strategic approaches to managing this species. The Student Affairs Committee offers student travel assistance to recruit new and talented scientists into fisheries science careers. As such, they organized a student-mentor lunch at the 2015 SDAFS meeting in Savannah in which 84 students participated. They also assisted 44 students with hotel costs, moderated, and judged student posters and presentations at the same meeting. Finally, the Awards Committee solicited and evaluated nominations and granted 11 Southern Division awards and plaques for service in 2015. This committee is often underappreciated, but its role is a valuable one in which fisheries professionals are recognized for their career and societal contributions. Many of these committees are actively working in outreach and information transfer via websites and Facebook. Both the Reservoir and Catfish Management Technical Committees gave student awards, and the Trout Technical Committee gave two distinguished service awards. All combined, these committees do a tremendous amount of work!

**Resolutions Committee Report:** President Riecke recognized Gene Wilde as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Wilde read a prepared resolution in appreciation of the host Chapter. President Riecke called for a motion to approve the resolution. Steve McMullin made the motion and Larry Connor seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ballot Committee Report: President Riecke recognized Past President John Jackson as Chair of the Ballot Committee. Past President Jackson noted the three primary responsibilities of the Immediate Past President:

1) to review and revise the SDAFS Procedure Manual, 2) support the other EXCOM members throughout the year, and 3) serve as the Chair of the Ballot Committee. In summer 2015, there were elections for two offices: Vice President with nominees Joey Slaughter and Craig Bonds (winner Craig Bonds) and Student Representative to the EXCOM with nominees Daniel Walker and Andrew Taylor (winner Andrew Taylor). Elections are conducted online and Past President Jackson encouraged more members to vote.

**Presentation of Awards:** President-Elect Coughlan announced the following SDAFS Awards while President Riecke congratulated recipients and presented awards:

The runner-up 2015 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Kevin J. Hining of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for his manuscript/presentation entitled *Use of Trail Cameras to Assess Angler Use of Two Remote Trout Streams in North Carolina*. First place was given to David L. Buckmeier (Nathan G. Smith, J. Warren Schlechte, Allyse M. Ferrara, and Kirk Kirkland, co-authors) for their manuscript/presentation entitled *Characteristics and Conservation of a Trophy Alligator Gar Population in the Middle Trinity River, Texas.* Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

There were no Distinguished Service Awards.

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The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to Pat Mazik for her role in mentoring students and her AFS contributions at the West Virginia Chapter, Southern Division, and Society levels.

Awards of Merit were given to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Mississippi State University for submitting at least one publication per year to the SEAFWA Proceedings over a three-year period. A total of 23 manuscripts were submitted by these three groups, which was more than 25% of all submissions.

The Georgia AFS Chapter received the Outstanding Chapter Award for their efforts in putting on the highly successful SDAFS meeting in Savannah in 2015, establishing a new student scholarship, and supporting youth outreach efforts.

The Best Student Subunit Award went to Mississippi State University for their outreach efforts, including fishing derbies, educational workshops, youth classes, 4H groups, and their work with the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute, Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, and the Mississippi Delta Farmers.

The Best Poster Award from the 2015 SDAFS Meeting in Savannah went to Eric Tidmore (Nicole Sadecky and Zachary Loughman, coauthors) of West Liberty University for their work entitled *Epigean Crayfishes of the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Kentucky River: Life History and Ecology.* Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2015 SDAFS Meeting was given to Derek L. Bahr (Douglas L. Peterson, coauthor) of University of Georgia for their work entitled *Atlantic Sturgeon Recruitment in the Savannah River, Georgia.* The Best Student Presentation was awarded to David A. Dippold (Robert T. Leaf, J. Read Hendon and James Franks, coauthors) of University of Southern Mississippi for their work entitled *Estimation and Validation of the Length-at-Age Relationship of Mississippi's Spotted Seatrout.* Plaques and checks for \$50 (Best Poster and Second Place Best Presentation) and \$100 (First Place Best Presentation) were given to each first author prior to the meeting. Co-authors received certificates.

Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships were presented by Incoming Chair of the SDAFS Reservoir Committee Lawrence Dorsey. The \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to Clay Raines (Mississippi State University) and Cole Harty (Tennessee Tech University). Dorsey expressed the committee's appreciation of Mossback Fish Habitat for sponsoring both scholarships this year.

Brian Alford, Chair of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award to Andrew Taylor of Oklahoma State University for his work on the conservation genetics of shoal bass. The award included a plaque, \$500, and one-year membership to AFS.

#### (Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

Jerry Brown, Chair of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, presented its first student scholarship to encourage students to attend technical committee meetings. The \$300 award went to Joseph Smith of Virginia Tech for his work with blue catfish and was used to help offset his cost to attend the SDAFS meeting.

John Damer, Chair of the SDAFS Trout Technical Committee, recognized Monte Seehorn who started the Trout Technical Committee over 47 years ago and has provided invaluable service to the Committee and trout conservation during his career.

Resolution of Appreciate to Host plaques and certificates were given to the West Virginia Chapter, Pat Mazik (General Meeting Chair), Kyle Hartman (Program Chair), Brandon Keplinger (Finance Chair), Lara Hedrick (Fundraising Chair), Frank Borsuk (Workshop and Local Arrangements Chair), Dave Wellman (Student Affairs and Local Arrangements Chair), Scott Morrison (Registration Chair), Jim Hedrick (Webmaster/AV/Technology Chair), Erin Thayer and Dave Thorne (Poster Chair), and Stuart Welsh (Symposia Chair). Plaques were presented to the West Virginia Chapter, the general meeting chair, and the program chair. Everyone else received certificates.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to several SDAFS leaders, including Bob Curry (2013-2015 SDAFS representative to SEAFWA), Brandon Peoples (2013-2014 SDAFS Newsletter Editor, 2015 SDAFS Listserv Administrator, 2013-2015 Student Representative to the SDAFS EXCOM), Sasha Doss (2015 SDAFS Newsletter Editor), Nicole Rankin (2015 SDAFS Student Affairs Committee Chair), Gene Wilde (2015 SDAFS Awards Committee Chair), Zach Martin (2015 SDAFS Webmaster), Brian Alford (2015 SDAFS Webmaster), Hae Kim (2015 SDAFS Webmaster), Jessica Baumann (2013-2015 SDAFS Podcasts), and Chris Wood (2015 SDAFS Podcasts).

Old Business: None.

**Installation of 2016 Officers:** New officers were Dave Coughlan, President (escorted by Steve McMullin); Wes Porak, President-Elect (escorted by Jim Long and Andrew Taylor); and Craig Bonds, Vice President (escorted by Rick Ott and Jake Norman). New Immediate Past President Dennis Riecke offered some final remarks and presented the EXCOM members with gifts as tokens of appreciation for their service.

**Newly Installed President Dave Coughlan's Remarks:** President Coughlan commended Past President Riecke for his leadership and service to the SDAFS, then offered him a plaque of appreciation and special bottle of bourbon. President Coughlan requested that Steve McMullin escort him into his new office, because for three of the four years that he was on the SDAFS EXCOM, President Coughlan acted as his SDAFS Secretary-Treasurer. Although extremely honored for that, he had hoped that his wife could have had the honor to do so. Unfortunately, due to medical reasons, she was unable to make the trip this year. She did provide some

#### (Business Meeting Minutes Continued)

important advice, however: "Keep it simple, stupid!" He remarked that the strength of the SDAFS lies with its members who participate on technical committees, volunteer for AFS service, mentor students, and protect our natural resources. President Coughlan reminded attendees that his job is to support and assist them in any way he could. During his presidential tenure, he will be focusing on work safety and encouraged attendees to keep an eye out for more information that will be forthcoming about that. He challenged everyone to select an AFS book and read it cover-to-cover this year; in return, he agreed to read the AFS book, *Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment* (Symposium 69). As a final remark, he reminded those 50 years and older to get a colonoscopy; it could save their lives.

**New Business:** President Coughlan introduced AFS Policy Director Tom Bigford for his discussion on the *Future of the Nation's Aquatic Resources: Recommendations for the Next Administration*. This document will include aspects such as a list of upcoming fisheries leaders in federal agencies, priorities in appropriation bills, and which regulations get reviewed. The AFS is leading this effort which involves staff meeting with -- at present -- almost 100 groups to get their input and recommendations. All of this information will be summarized and made available to the next U.S. presidential administration, bringing together issues of science, management, and policy. These are big picture issues, such as regional or basin-wide approaches and agency appropriations and will include specific examples. He encouraged SDAFS members to supply input and share knowledge about other similar reports (e.g., at the state or agency level) with him or other AFS staff involved in this effort. An early draft of the report is expected to be complete by early summer, finalized at the AFS meeting in Kansas City, and presented to the next administration following elections in the fall. A short handout containing more information was made available to meeting attendees.

Barry Bolton, representing the Oklahoma Chapter AFS, invited meeting attendees to the 2017 SDAFS meeting to be held in downtown Oklahoma City from January 26-29, 2017. On behalf of the Oklahoma Chapter, he also praised the efforts of the West Virginia Chapter Planning Committee for putting on a successful 2016 SDAFS meeting.

Past President Riecke provided some final thoughts to meeting attendees. His parting words came from a quote by Brian Tobin, former Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in the July 1995 Fisheries Magazine article: "Let us join our voices and speak for the fish together...Lest the science come before the political, economic, business, social, or other considerations, fisheries are going to be in trouble." His hope is that leaders in our agencies, universities, and in the Society would hold the same philosophy. He stated that he sees that leadership spirit exhibited by our current Society leaders.

Hearing no other new business, President Coughlan adjourned the meeting at 1904 hrs, noting (with humor) that he would have been finished on time at 1900 *if not for the added words of Past President Riecke*.



## **SDAFS Award Winners**

#### 2015 and 2016 Award Winners

Awards at the 2016 SDAFS Business meeting

John F. Dequine Award for 2015
The John F. Dequine Awards are
presented for the best fisheries

paper presentation at the annual SEAFWA conference.

Runner Up, Dequine Award

Kevin J. Hining
Use of Trail Cameras to Assess
Angler Use of Two Remote Trout
Streams in North Carolina
Plaque and \$50 check; certificate
for co-authors

1st Place, Dequine Award

David L. Buckmeier, Nathan G. Smith, J. Warren Schlechte, Allyse M. Ferrara, and Kirk Kirkland Characteristics and Conservation of a Trophy Alligator Gar Population in the Middle Trinity River, Texas Plaque and \$100 check, certificates for co-authors

**Best Student Subunit Award 2015**Mississippi State University

**Outstanding Chapter Award 2015**Georgia Chapter

**Distinguished Service Award 2015** 

The Outstanding Achievement
Award was given to **Pat Mazik** for
her role in mentoring students and
her AFS contributions at the West
Virginia Chapter, Southern
Division, and Society levels.

#### 2015 Merit Awards:

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Georgia Department of Natural Resources Mississippi State University There is nothing an editor likes more than getting a steady supply of well-written manuscripts on pertinent topics for his or her iournal. And since I took over the Journal of the Southeastern Associated Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2011, the three mostpublished agencies/universities have been the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Mississippi State University. Over the last four years, these three groups have submitted a total of 23 manuscripts – more than 25% of submissions!! Over the last three years – the coverage of this award – these agencies comprised almost a third of all submissions. These manuscripts covered a variety of topics important to fisheries management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, such as genetics, alligator gar population dynamics, stocking

#### (SDAFS Award Winners Continued)

efficacy, effects of introduced species on native fishes, and novel management techniques for largemouth bass. A journal is no better than its submissions, and these folks have definitely set the bar for this journal. I tell them all the time, but I am happy to see their devotion and diligence rewarded with this muchdeserved award.

- Steve Sammons SEAFWA Fisheries Editor

#### **Best Poster Award 2015**

Eric Tidmore (West Liberty University). Epigean Crayfishes of the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Kentucky River: Life History and Ecology. \$50.00 check, plaque; certificates for co-authors (Nicole Sadecky and Zachary Loughman)

Best Student Presentation
Awards 2015

## 2nd place, Best Student Presentation:

Derek L. Bahr (University of Georgia). Atlantic Sturgeon Recruitment in the Savannah River, Georgia. \$50.00 check, plaque; certificates for coauthors (Douglas L. Peterson)

## 1st place, Best Student Presentation:

David A. Dippold (University of Southern Mississippi).
Estimation and Validation of the Length-at-Age Relationship of Mississippi's Spotted Seatrout. - \$100.00 check, plaque; certificates for co-authors (Robert T. Leaf, J. Read Hendon and James Franks)

#### **Additional Awards 2016:**

Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Chapter (Program & Meeting Chair, Host Chapter): General Meeting Chair, Patricia Mazik (plague)

Program Chair: Kyle Hartman

(plaque)

Finance Chair: Brandon

#### Keplinger

Fund Raising Chair, Lara Hedrick Local Arrangements Chair:

#### Frank Borsuk;

Local Arrangements Chair, Student Affairs Chair, **Dave** 

#### Wellman

Registration Chair, Scott

#### Morrison

Webmaster, Audiovisual and Technology Chair Jim Hedrick; Poster Session Chair: Dave Thorne and Erin Thayer Symposia Chair: Stuart Welsh Workshop Chair: Frank Borsuk Certificates of Appreciation were presented to several SDAFS leaders, including:

**Bob Curry** (2013-2015 SDAFS representative to SEAFWA), **Brandon Peoples** (2013-2014 SDAFS Newsletter Editor, 2015 SDAFS Listserv Administrator, 2013-2015 Student Representative to the SDAFS EXCOM), Sasha Doss (2015 SDAFS Newsletter Editor), Nicole Rankin (2015 SDAFS Student Affairs Committee Chair). Gene Wilde (2015 SDAFS Awards Committee Chair), Zach Martin (2015 SDAFS Webmaster), **Brian Alford** (2015 SDAFS Webmaster). Hae Kim (2015 SDAFS Webmaster). Jessica Baumann (2013 - 2015 SDAFS Podcasts), Chris Wood (2015 SDAFS

#### Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships

Podcasts).

were presented by Incoming Chair of the SDAFS Reservoir Committee Lawrence Dorsey. The \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to **Clay Raines** (Mississippi State University) and **Cole Harty** (Tennessee Tech

#### (SDAFS Award Winners Continued)

University). Dorsey expressed the committee's appreciation of Mossback Fish Habitat for sponsoring both scholarships this year.

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Trout Technical Committee,
recognized **Monte Seehorn** who
started the Trout Technical
Committee over 47 years ago
and has provided invaluable
service to the Committee and

trout conservation during his career.

Awards Presented at the Alabama-Georgia Chapter meeting in Columbus, Georgia on February 11, 2016

The following were presented with Certificates of Appreciation:

**Brad Ray**, Student Affairs Chairman for the 2014 and 2015 **Steven Sammons**, SEAFWA Fisheries Editor 2011-2015

For their service in planning the 2015 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Savannah, GA the following were award Certificates of Appreciation:

John Kilpatrick, Symposia
Chairman
Brian Irwin, Student Affairs CoChairman
Tim Bonvechio, Workshop
Chairman
Cynthia Williams, Student CoChairperson and Federal Liaison

#### **Best Student Presentation 2016**

Alex Cummins, University of Georgia Title: Seasonal Movements and Annual Mortality Rates of Tripletail (Lobotes surinamensis) in the Southeast Coauthors: Adam Fox, Chris Kalinowsky, Richard Chandler, Matt Streich, and Douglas Peterson

## Runner-up Best Student Presentation

Edward Stowe, University of
Georgia
Title: Using Side-Scan Sonar to
Assess the Atlantic Sturgeon
Spawning Run in the Altamaha

River Coauthor: Douglas Peterson

#### Best student poster

Luv Viswa, California University
of Pennsylvania
Title: Does the Spiny Water Flea
Dominate Communities in the
Allegheny River?
Coauthors: Derek Gray, David G.
Argent, and William G. Kimmel



### Call for Nominations

#### C.W. Watson Award

C.W. Watson Award Nominations are being sought for the Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference. The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section

of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. All Southeastern fish and wildlife conservationists and other interested persons are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates.

Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should include complete information on the candidate's background; i.e., education, training, noteworthy accomplishments, and particularly, the achievement(s) for which the nomination is being made. The nomination should include, but not be limited to, a description of the accomplishment(s), application in the state and region concerned, time involved, and the amount of aid received from associates. Furnish as much information as possible to aid the committee in making the selection. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted each year.

(Call for Nominations Continued)

#### NOMINATION FORMAT

- I. Background Information A. Name
  - B. Birthdate
  - C. Education
- D. Employment History
  II. Accomplishment(s)\* and
  application of accomplishment(s)
  upon which the Award should be
  made
  - A. Problem or opportunity with which nominee was involved.
  - B. Action nominee took to solve problem or capitalize on opportunity.
  - C. Results (accomplishments) of nominee's actions.

The C.W. Watson Award may be given for accomplishing a single item or a series of different nonrelated items. But the award is given to a nominee who has contributed the most to any of the appropriate areas of fish and wildlife conservation. Emphasis is on contribution, not tenure. Those making nominations are requested to insure that they explain clearly what was accomplished and how it contributed. Selection will be based on specific accomplishment(s) and other information included in the letter of nomination.

## Distinguished Service Award

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

#### **Achievement Award**

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

# Best Chapter and Outstanding Subunit Award

Letters in support of the nomination from other members are welcome. Awards criteria and past winners can be found on the SDAFS website at http://sdafs.org/awards/. Submit nominations to the SDAFS Awards Committee Chair.

## **Committee Updates**

#### Resolutions Committee

The Resolution Committee has voted (favorably) on this resolution and wishes to put it before the membership for their consideration and vote.

## RESOLUTION ON STANDARDIZATION OF FISH DATA MANAGEMENT

American Fisheries Society
Southern Division Warmwater
Streams Committee

WHEREAS, the mission of local governing fish and wildlife agencies is to conserve, protect, restore, enhance and manage fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for current and future use, benefit, and enjoyment by state and province residents and visitors, and;

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of local governing fish and wildlife agencies to sample, record, and analyze the status of all fish species in their jurisdiction to inform management and conservation actions and expenditure of funds, and;

WHEREAS other non-governing organizations such as universities, research institutions, NGO's and

the private sector collect a vast amount of freshwater fisheries data that could be applied to broader uses, and;

WHEREAS, the fish data collected by local governing fish and wildlife agencies and others is increasingly being shared in support of regional and national management and conservation efforts, and;

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society has published Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes (Bonar et al. 2009) and Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills (Southwick and Loftus 2003) to provide guidance for, and in some cases legally codified, effective sampling methods, and;

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society has supported efforts to improve platforms and standards for sharing fish data for many years through the work of its regional and national technical committees, and;

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other organizations have conducted numerous symposia, workshops, summits, and meetings on freshwater data standardization and data sharing, and;

WHEREAS, in some cases the fish data collected and managed by governing fish and wildlife agencies and others continues to lack sufficient consistency and quality control to support sciencebased decisions, therefore be it RESOLVED, the Southern Division. American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this day of in the year of at urges the local governing and provincial fish and wildlife agencies and others collecting freshwater fish data in North America to commit the necessary staff and financial resources to improve the utility of freshwater fish data through the following actions:

- Bring freshwater fish sampling methods by all agency staff into compliance with existing fish sampling standards to ensure consistency in the data over time and across the jurisdiction.
- Where possible, build from findings of prior data summits

# (Committee Updates Continued)

and interagency symposia (many available at www.fishdata.org) to advance the ability to effectively share information with other agencies.

- Where possible, bring existing fish standard sampling protocols into compliance with recommendations in Bonar et al. (2009) to ensure proper site selection, deployment of equipment, and quantification of sample bias and capture efficiency.
- Develop and maintain metadata describing the sample objectives, site selection criteria, site conditions, and other information contained in AFS guidance to ensure that data are properly used in analyses.
- Employ quality
   assurance/quality control
   procedures to ensure that data
   are accurate and properly
   recorded.
- Maintain a statewide data management system to facilitate data management, quality control and ability for sharing.

- Utilize standards for data sharing to facilitate sharing of fish data with users other than the originating agency.
- Encourage and facilitate data sharing to support management and conservation actions beyond agency jurisdiction or specific but sometimes narrow data collection purposes.

# SDAFS Seeks to Form a Communications Committee

Your SDAFS officers are exploring the possibility of forming a SDAFS Communications Committee to handle our website and social media platforms. We have three webmasters who possess varying abilities to revise our website. So, if you have website management or social media skills, here is your chance to put them to work for your professional society.

Here are some of the tasks we face:

1. Migrate content on chapter and committee websites from our old server at http://sdafs.org/ to

the new server at http://sd.fisheries.org/

- 2. Update chapter and student subunit contact information and website links at http://sd.fisheries.org/chapters/
- Assist chapters and subunits with upgrading and revising their websites
- 4. Post material submitted to committees and chapters to the SDAFS website
- 5. Review material and links posted to the SDAFS website to correct errors and repair broken links
- 6. Explore the feasibility of creating a SDAFS YouTube Channel and place podcasts from our Spring Meetings on that channel
- 7. Begin to utilize Facebook and Twitter to market the SDAFS

Our previous webmaster estimated that SDAFS webmaster duties can take 15 - 20 hours/month. The website management platform (WordPress) is extremely flexible and user friendly. The most common tasks (e.g. posting announcements, updating links)

are actually quite easy. We also now have website management and security support through the Parent Society which will be greatly helpful. There are major human resources and information management tasks on the horizon for the incoming SDAFS webmaster as we lack up-to-date information on who manages committee, chapter, and subunit websites. Also, some committees, chapters, and subunits may look to update their own websites in the future and the SDAFS webmaster would help these groups with this process.

The Communications Committee could be a vehicle for communicating and maintaining up-to-date information on who manages chapter and student subunit websites, administers SDAFS list-serves, edits newsletters, etc. The committee would ensure that SDAFS maintains a strong web-presence via their webmaster. They could handle press releases on current issues on which SDAFS wishes to take policy stances (e.g. ATVs in streams, Clean Water Rule).

So, if you are interested in being a part of all this, contact SDAFS
President Dave Coughlan at dcoughlan@normandeau.com

# Chapter and Subunit Updates

# Alabama Chapter

The Alabama Chapter held a joint annual meeting with the Georgia Chapter from February 9-11, 2016, in Columbus, Georgia. This was the first meeting of the recently reformed Alabama Chapter in 20 years. The Alabama Chapter would like to thank the Georgia Chapter for the invitation of a joint meeting. This was beneficial for both chapters as over 190 folks attended the joint meeting. The Alabama chapter continues to make strides with the reformation process.

- Alabama AFS officers for the upcoming year are:
- President: Steve Rider
- President-elect: Marke Meade
- Secretary: Elise Irwin
- Treasurer: Chris Mckee

# Arkansas Tech Subunit

The ATU subunit has been very busy this spring. We held our annual beast feast with over 100 in attendance and raised significant funds to support our society's activities. The subunit also participated in several community outreach activities. We participated in a River Valley Quail

Forever shooting event where we taught gun safety to elementary through high school students. We also participated in a USFWS event called Aviators and Pollinators. This event is an opportunity for the public to learn about our native wildlife. We also took our electrofishing boat along with aguariums filled with native fishes to Dover Elementary School to teach students about our field of study. We also assisted with Arkansas Tech's college upward bound program; this is a college preparation program for high school students in the area. Members from our society shared advice and showed students what to expect from our fisheries and wildlife program. We also passed out trees for ATU's earth day event. In addition to community outreach, we also held a fisheries field day event where undergraduates learned fisheries sampling techniques.

Members of our subunit attended the Arkansas state chapter of The Wildlife Society's annual meeting, the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, the Southeastern Student Wildlife Conclave, and an AGFC commissioners meeting. Zach Moran, Adam Geik, and Andrew Porterfield gave oral presentations

### (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)



The Arkansas Tech Subunit poses for a picture.

at the Arkansas AFS meeting. Bennett Grooms won best graduate student presentation at the Arkansas Academy of Science meeting.

Graduate student members from our subunit have been investigating important fisheries and wildlife related research questions along with the help of undergraduates. Adam Geik successfully defended his thesis that examined spawning movements of Paddlefish in the Arkansas River. Another graduate student, Philip Malone, successfully defended his research on the capture efficiency of tandem baited hoop-nets. Current graduate student Andrew Porterfield is working on a project evaluating the immediate post-stocking predation of age-0 crappie and predator movement responses to stocking events. Sarah Tomke is studying how habitat characteristics effect the survival and genetic structure of Prairie Lizard populations. Bennett Grooms is studying the

impacts of non-consumptive use on state park avian, mesocarnivore, and woody vegetation communities and distributions. Zach Moran has been investigating spatial distribution of Blue Catfish and its effects on sampling efficiency, utility of chase boats for sampling Blue Catfish in riverine and lacustrine habitats, and the utility of pulsed AC and pulsed DC for low-frequency sampling. Jacob Martin has been studying Smallmouth Bass spawning movements and environmental conditions associated with spawning in an intermittent Arkansas stream. Undergraduates from our subunit have been involved in helping with field and lab work for all projects.

-Jacob Martin ATU Subunit Member

(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

# Florida Chapter

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was held March  $2^{nd} - 4^{th}$ , 2016, at a great new location, the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center, in Haines City on the shores of Lake Pierce. One hundred people attended the meeting, 29 of which were students. There were 37 contributed oral paper presentations (12 of which were students) and 27 poster presentations (14 of which were students). Student presence and participation is a big part of our chapter's annual meetings, which is reflected in our commitment to fund student travel and recognize our student's accomplishments through our annual Rottman scholarships. All 18 studenttravel grants that were submitted were awarded this year. Students receiving awards represented Florida International University, Louisiana State University, University of Miami, University of South Florida, and the University of Florida. The Rottman scholarships were awarded to Gregory Hill of Florida International University, who received the M.S. Rottman award, and Amanda Croteau, of

the University of Florida, who received the PhD Rottman award. Each was presented with a plaque and a \$500 check. All told, nearly \$5,000 was awarded to students this year!

The first day started with a welcome address from Chris Bradshaw [Chapter Past-President, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)], which was followed by three sessions of contributed papers. A formal poster session was held that evening, with our traditional bonfire social following.

The second day began with a welcome from Andy Strickland (Chapter President-Elect, Program Chair, FWC) and an introduction of the symposium topic for this year's meeting: Improving Florida's *Fisheries*. The symposium's papers exemplified the diversity of research and management projects taking place in the state of Florida, ranging in topics from FWC's citizen science TrophyCatch program which monitors and awards the catch of trophy size Largemouth Bass (Bob Wattendorf), to FWC's aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement program and its role in fisheries management (Beacham Furse), to an overview of the research and management of the

recreationally important
Hogfish (Angela Collins,
University of Florida, Florida
Sea Grant), to how outreach
and control efforts are being
used to address the invasion of
the non-native Lionfish in
Florida's marine environment
(Meaghan Faletti, FWC). The
symposium encompassed the
entire second day of the
meeting.

The chapter's Student Subunit then held its annual meeting, in which old and new business was presented by Chelsey Crandall (Subunit President, University of Florida). Highlights included news that the student blog "Reefs to Rivers" is still going strong and that they have had 21k views. They also have a Facebook page. These outlets serve as good connections for students at different universities in the state. The Subunit has an email list serve set up for student members. Florida Chapter Student Subunit members also met at the 2015 Portland meeting. The Subunit also held its election of new officers: John Hargrove – President (University of Florida), Emily Gipson – Vice President (University of Central Florida), Amanda Croteau -

# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

Secretary/Treasurer (University of Florida), and University Liaison – Natalie Simon (University of Florida). Congratulations to the new officers!

The chapter business meeting was held that evening and recognized the accomplishments of our members. The Rich Cailteux Award, established in 2009 and aimed to honor individuals for their career contributions to the fisheries profession who also have a history of mentoring young fisheries professionals and involvement and leadership within the Florida Chapter, was presented to Mike Murphy (FWC). Mike Murphy's accomplishments and contributions to marine resource assessment and management in the US Southeast region span more than 35 years. After receiving his Master of Science from Texas A&M University, he joined the Florida Dept. of Natural Resources (later DEP and now FWC) in 1981 as a fishery biologist and spent his next 35 years devoting his time to advancement of our knowledge of fish population dynamics of many important estuarine and coastal species in

the Southeast region. In the mid-1980's, Mike's research involved life history studies (growth, reproduction, and migration) of spotted seatrout and red drum, leading to several peer-reviewed publications that are still being used in stock assessment modeling. In the mid 1990's, Mike's research interest advanced toward quantitative fisheries assessment and modeling, applying and developing population dynamics models for stock assessment and management of important fish species in the Southeast region, generating

more than 30 stock assessment reports used by the Commissions and Councils for managing marine fisheries in the Southeast region. Under his leadership since 2001, the stock assessment group at **FWC-FWRI** became one of

the leading fisheries stock assessment and modeling group in the Southeast. Over the past 35 years, Mike has been a member of many technical committees serving various commissions and councils (GSMFC, ASMFC, GMFM, SAFMC) contributing to the advancement of fisheries assessments and management processes at the state and federal levels. Over the years, Mike has helped many young people get started. Mike was very generous in helping Florida's Fishery Independent Monitoring program get started in the late 1980's and



Rich Cailteux Award.

# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

early 1990's. He would go into the field and show new people how to set nets, record data, tag fish, and anything else that needed doing on a sampling trip. In the laboratory, he showed people how to cut and read otoliths. He spent many hours showing people how to discern the first annulus. As a founding member of the stock assessment group in 1992, he brought that same "can-do" attitude. Once he was puzzled when trying to reconstruct an age-structure and his resolution of the issue led to a publication on using the Chapman-Robson method with catch curves (1997). As an integral part of the stock assessment group, he has helped many new people learn to ask critical questions when analyzing populations. Mike has been an active member of the American fisheries Society for many years. He was Florida chapter president from 1993-94, has been a frequent speaker at the Chapter's annual meetings, and has always been willing to talk with new people. He helped out in other roles such as a regional editor for AFS's journals. It was the honor and privilege of the chapter to name Mike as the 6<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Rich Cailteux Award.

Another highlight of the business meeting was a PowerPoint presentation update by Travis Tuten and Kerry Flaherty-Walia (meeting co-chairs) about the hosting of the AFS 2017 Annual Meeting. Highlights of their presentation included information about the site visits to Tampa by AFS staff; conference calls between AFS staff and FLAFS committee chairs; the 2017 venues and contracts that are already in place for the meeting including the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa Marriott Waterside, Lowry Park Zoo, The Florida Aquarium, and the Tampa Bay History Center; the 2017 AFS Help and Contracted Services that are already in place for the meeting; the 2017 Meeting Website; the responsibilities of FLAFS host chapter at the 2016 Kansas City Meeting; the logo poster for the 2017 meeting is finished and available to take and pass out to others or post at your work place; and the current action items for hosting the 2017 meeting with a priority on sponsorship. Kathy Guindon then gave an update on sponsorship/fundraising, and asked for more people to join this committee to help out with fundraising for the 2017 meeting. Results of the Executive

Committee elections were then read, welcoming Jeff Hill (University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory) as the new President Elect and announcing the return of Kevin Johnson (FWC) as the Secretary/Treasurer for a second year. The business meeting wrapped up with Jennifer Rehage turning the meeting over to Andy Strickland as the new President. The Chapter then held its annual student raffle, where it made \$2,850 that will be used to support future student travel. The second day of the meeting closed with another bonfire social.

The final day of the meeting finished with two sessions of contributed papers, covering a wide variety of marine and freshwater fisheries topics. The 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society came to a close with our awards presentation. The Jack Dequine Best Student Paper award went to Chelsey Crandall (University of Florida), and the Best Professional Oral Presentation went to Angela Collins (Florida Sea Grant) and Eric Nagid (FWC). The Best Poster Presentation for a

# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

student went to Emily Gipson (University of Central Florida), and for a professional went to Kirsten Ressel (University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory).

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in this year's meeting and we look forward to seeing you (and others) next year at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, which will be held at the AFS 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa.

# 2016 FLAFS Officers:

# President

Andy Strickland
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
andy.strickland@myfwc.com

### President-Elect

Dr. Jeff Hill
University of Florida Tropical
Aquaculture Laboratory
jeffhill@ufl.edu
Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Johnson
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
kevin.johnson@myfwc.com

# Past President

Dr. Jennifer Rehage Florida International University rehagei@fiu.edu Newsletter Editor
Jessica Quintana
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
jessica.guintana@myfwc.com

Student Sub-Unit President
John Hargrove
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President
Emily Gipson
University of Central Florida
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emilygipson@knights.ucf.edu

Student Sub-Unit
Secretary/Treasurer
Amanda Croteau
University of Florida
Email: acroteau@ufl.edu

Student Sub-Unit University
Liaison
Natalie Simon
University of Florida
Email: nsimon921@ufl.edu

Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society can be found at our website: http://sdafs.org/flafs/

# Louisiana Chapter

# Louisiana organizes an Ichthyology Camp

Our Louisiana AFS Chapter organized a one-day fish identification workshop aimed at helping fisheries professionals and students expand their Ichthyology knowledge. Twentytwo people attended the workshop, which covered freshwater and saltwater fish identification and anatomy. Instructors/organizers of this event included: Chris Green. Hank Bart, Brac Salyers, and Catherine Reuter. Attendees represented undergraduate and graduate students, state government employees, and Master Naturalists. Our Chapter looks forward to holding another 'Ichty Camp' in the winter of 2016.

# Louisiana AFS Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Louisiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (LA AFS) was held on June 2-3, 2016 at the Dalton Woods Auditorium within the College of the Coast and Environment at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

Attendees numbered 136, with 101 professionals and 35 students. The two day meeting schedule consisted of 30 oral presentations and 8 posters. Twenty-four (63%) of the presentations and posters were authored by students. Nine student awards were presented for best abstracts, oral and poster presentations.

The Plenary Session theme was "Research Priorities of the Commercial and Recreational Fishing Sectors of Louisiana". The plenary panel was moderated by Dr. James Cowan, Louisiana State University and panelist included: Mr. Barney Callahan, President, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Mr. Dave Cresson, Director, Louisiana CCA, Mr. Harlon Pierce, Harlon's LA Fish & Seafood, Gulf Seafood Institute, former member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, and Dr. John Supan, Research Professor, Oyster Specialist, Director-Sea Grant Oyster Research Lab.

Outgoing LA AFS President, Dr.
Mike Kaller, presented the
President's Special Service Award
to the Aquaculture and Fisheries
Club of Louisiana State University.
The AFC at LSU has participated in
the annual meeting of the LA AFS
by providing valuable support in
helping with meeting tasks and

organizing a fund raising raffle held at the social for over a decade. LA AFS members always look forward to bidding on unique silent auction items at each chapter meeting.

Dr. Kaller also presented our Chapter's Special Achievement Award to Mr. Bobby Reed. Bobby is an Inland Fisheries Biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and a Past President of the LA AFS Chapter. This award recognizes Bobby's decades of dedication to fisheries and LA AFS.

Student Awards for our annual meeting included:

### Abstract

1<sup>st</sup>: Use of surface mucus as a biomarker for endocrine disruption in an estuarine fish.
Andrea Yammine\*, Charles Brown, Chelsea Adams, Fernando Galvez, and Christopher Green

2<sup>nd</sup>: **Fish assemblage structure at small oil and gas platforms on and around a sand shoal in the northern Gulf of Mexico.** David B.
Reeves\*, Ryan T. Munnelly,
Edward J. Chesney, and Donald M.
Baltz

3<sup>rd</sup>: Trophic ecology of red snapper around offshore oil and gas platforms: disentangling the effects of artificial light. Kristin L. Foss\* and James H. Cowan, Jr.

### Poster

1<sup>st</sup>: Pigmentation of blue crabs (*Callinectes sapidus*) as a result of diet: a preliminary study. Morgan E. Ducote\*, Julie Lively, and Michael Kaller

2<sup>nd</sup>: **Predator and foraging cues in** the thinstripe hermit crab (*Clibanarius vittatus*). Jace Hood\* and Julie Lively

3<sup>rd</sup>: Thermal maxima of two sympatric crayfish species in Louisiana, *Procambarus clarkii* and *P. zonangulus*. Jordan Logarbo\* and Christopher Bonvillain

### Presentation

1<sup>st</sup>: **Phylogeography of the Threadfin shad (***Dorosoma* **petenense, Gűnther, 1867).** Diego
Elias\* and Kyle R. Piller

2<sup>nd</sup>: Central Louisiana streams support few crayfish species locally and many species regionally. William R. Budnick\*, A. Raynie Harlan, Tiffany E. Pasco, William E. Kelso, and Michael D. Kaller

3<sup>rd</sup>: Proximate cues underlying maternal care behavior in blue crabs, *Callinectes sapidus*.

Samantha Hicks\* and M. Zachary Darnell



# Mississippi Chapter

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MS AFS) was held on March 9-11, 2016 at Tara Wildlife near Vicksburg, MS. There were 81 in attendance

with a full schedule that included 33 oral presentations and 13 posters. Students significantly contributed to this meeting as 26 (~57%) of the presentations and posters were authored by students. Two excellent plenary presentations were given by Southern Division AFS Past

President Dennis Riecke and Dr.
Mike Colvin from the Department
of Wildlife, Fisheries, and
Aquaculture at Mississippi State
University. The conference was
generously supported by the
Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP), the
University of Southern Mississippi
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
(USM/GCRL), Mississippi State

University (MSU), and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Mississippi branch.

Three awards were given for the best student presentations. These awards have been sponsored by the Mississippi CCA since 2009.

Seventeen students from the MSU and USM/GCRL student subunits, as well as students from Ole Miss competed for awards this year.

The coveted awards include a plaque and cash award.

Presentations were judged by attendees from state, federal, private, and university backgrounds.

Winning presentations were:

**1**<sup>st</sup> **Place:** Morgan Corey, USM/GCRL. Age validation and the length-at-age relationship of Mississippi's Southern Flounder stock.



Top to Bottom: Current President Tyler Stubbs (MDWFP) congratulates outgoing President Peter Allen, MSU, for his service to the MS Chapter.

Student Presentation Award Winners with Eric Hoffmayer, GCRL/NMFS, Left to Right: (2<sup>nd</sup>) David Dippold, USM/GCRL, (1<sup>st</sup>) Morgan Corey, USM/GCRL, and (3<sup>rd</sup>) Trevor Moncrief, USM/GCRL.

Past-President Wes Neal, MSU, presents the C.A. Schultz award to Eric Dibble, MSU.

The two major award winners in 2016 were Hal Schramm, MSU, with the Lifetime achievement award and Eric Dibble, MSU, with the C.A.
Schultz award.

(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** David Dippold, USM/GCRL. Assessing the status of the Mississippi Spotted Seatrout stock using a statistical catch-at-age model.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Trevor Moncrief, USM/GCRL. Preliminary results from a study of the reproductive biology of Vermilion Snapper (*Rhomboplites aurorubens*) from the north central Gulf of Mexico.

The Chapter recognized the service of Past-President Peter Allen (MSU) and elected Jerry Brown (MDWFP) as the new President-elect. The chapter also recognized the work of outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Green (USM/GCRL) on her dedicated service over the last few years. Jeremy Higgs (USM/GCRL) was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer. The Chapter also voted on a new chapter logo. Many logos were submitted for competition, with the winner getting a cash reward and a free chapter membership. The winning logo was drawn by Samantha Stelmack (MDWFP).

The Mississippi Chapter also congratulated Dennis Riecke

(MDWFP) on his leadership service to the Southern Division AFS, as well as for being recognized as the Mississippi Fisheries Conservationist of the year from the Mississippi Wildlife Federation this past spring.

The Chapter also presented two major awards for significant professional contributions to the scientific community, as well as their impacts on the many lives of colleagues, graduate students, and the fisheries community at large. The C.A. Schultz award was presented to Dr. Fric Dibble. MSU. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Dr. Hal Schramm, US Geological Survey Cooperative Unit Leader, MSU. Their work, as well as the work of their many graduate students, has been influential in Mississippi, the US, and abroad. Their dedication, work ethic, and leadership are admired by many, and the MS-AFS Chapter is grateful to have had these two great individuals as chapter members.

# University of Southern Mississippi Student Subunit

The USM GCRL Subunit has been active academically for the past few months with numerous publications from various students. Despite many of our current members graduating this Spring and Summer, we still found time to participate in outreach events such as CCA's Casting For Conservation this past May. Many of our



USM members assisted with the CCA Casting for Conservation event in May.

(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

members were also able to attend the MSAFS Annual Meeting in Vicksburg, MS this past March. Three of our members, Morgan Corey, David Dippold and Trevor Moncrief, were privileged to take home 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best Student Presentation Awards. We also funded four student travel awards totaling \$1,200, and hosted a silent auction at the MSAFS annual meeting which raised around \$700. Our Tripletail shirts have proven to be quite popular with over 100 shirts sold in the last 3 months.

As the summer draws to a close and a new school year begins, we at USM-AFS look forward to another successful year for our subunit.

> -Trevor Moncrief USM-AFS Subunit President

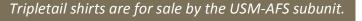
# Mississippi State **University Student** Subunit

The AFS student subunit at Mississippi State University has continued to promote strong communication and development among not only fisheries students and current professionals at MSU, but also the university and community within the state of Mississippi. Student members have taken full advantage of the opportunities available to them in becoming well-rounded fisheries professionals. Members gained valuable experience in electrofishing, gillnetting and trap-netting techniques; fish tagging methods, and experimental design while assisting in ongoing research projects at Mississippi State University.

> Participants also provided information to public spectators who were eager to learn more about fisheries research. A further exchange of knowledge was

promoted with the MSU Aquatic Medicine Club. AFS members taught MSU vet students appropriate fisheries techniques and boat maneuvers during a weekend workshop. Vet students are reciprocating with a pathology/disease workshop for fisheries students.

Participation in community programs was well received, and included activities focused on providing opportunities for MSU students, faculty and the public to learn about the importance of conserving biodiversity and natural resources. Student members provided service at the 2016 National Park Service BioBlitz event at the Natchez Trace visitor's center. Children and parents took part in a magnetic fishing game designed to educate and encourage catch and release fishing techniques. Participants were also instructed on how to tie a number of knots commonly used during a day of fishing. Members also led and participated in youth fishing rodeos at the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee Wildlife Refuge. Youth were provided with fishing techniques to use while fishing.





(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

The subunit's annual "Fish Dish Competition" was well received by MSU students and faculty. Competitors in the event provided an aquatic based dish to be judged for a prize, and the event served as both a fundraising opportunity as well as a way to raise awareness for the vast array of aquatic resources we need to protect.

Our members continue to pursue and provide information necessary for future conservation of aquatic resources. A number of graduate and undergraduate members within the subunit presented or plan to present a number of poster and oral presentations at 2016 meetings

at all levels of AFS. Further interest in participation within the American Fisheries Society was evident at 2016-2017 MSU subunit officer elections, and we look forward to seeing the individuals selected provide quality leadership over the next year at Mississippi State University. Further information on the subunit as well as upcoming events can be found on our website at www.msuafs.org.

-Keven Keretz MSU-AFS Student Sub-unit President

# East Carolina University Student Subunit

Last year AFS members Drs. Joe Luczkovich and Roger Rulifson, along with Drs. Mark Sprague and J.P. Walsh, took ownership of Blackbeard the Acoustic Wave Glider (AWG) from Liquid Robotics through an award by the National Science Foundation. During the past academic year, we used this ocean robot off the Outer Banks testing its various capabilities. Powered by wave action for propulsion and solar energy for the computers and instrumentation, the AWG can remain deployed indefinitely. However, bio-fouling and



# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

downloading of accumulated data necessitate retrieving Blackbeard after several weeks of deployment. The AWG has a surface float about the size of a large surfboard. This platform houses the solar panels, weather station, GPS, radar reflector, Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP), a C3 fluorimeter, and the command and control computer and scientific computer. The float is attached with an umbilical cord to the subsurface glider, which remains 20 feet below the surface. The sub has a Vemco VR2C and a Seabird CTD. Wave action moving the float up and down moves the glider, which has louvers (much like window blinds) that always move the sub forward. A rudder on the sub is controlled by GPS through a satellite connection to our laboratory. We can steer it while in bed! Operation requires piloting on a 24/7 basis. Our latest deployment had an instrument called a Decimus mounted in a towbody 30 feet behind the sub; this unit records the soundscape of the sea. Blackbeard's speed is considerably slower when equipped with the Decimus, as we found out on our last deployment in June. Launched from a vessel off Atlantic Beach

(Morehead City), NC, Blackbeard was set on a crisscross path to search for acoustically tagged Southern Flounder, and listen for whales, dolphins, and other soundproducing sea creatures. However, the Gulf Stream was up against the Outer Banks, and Blackbeard could not "swim" fast enough to overcome the strong northerly currents. Blackbeard soon left the area of operation, and alarms for leaving the area combined with alarms for excessive current speed and robot speed resulted in Blackbeard being swept toward the shoals of Cape Lookout. From ECU, the pilots made the decision to steer Blackbeard around Cape Lookout into Raleigh Bay hoping the Gulf Stream currents along the coastline would be lower, but still currents were too strong and Blackbeard slowly swam backwards toward Ocracoke Island and Cape Hatteras. A planned 10-day mission ended with an early Sunday morning rescue launched from Morehead City under strong winds, moderate seas, and a small craft warning. We eventually caught up to Blackbeard off Ocracoke Island (how appropriate, that is where the real Blackbeard "lost his

head," so to speak) and after a harrowing rescue, we finally made it back to Greenville and ECU near midnight. Follow Blackbeard's adventures on Facebook. Just type in "Blackbeard Sails the Seas for Science" to find out more.

Chuck Bangley (ECU-AFS president and Coastal Resources management PhD candidate) successfully defended his dissertation on nursery habitats of coastal sharks and is looking for a postdoc involving sharks and telemetry. Coley Hughes defended her CRM PhD dissertation on striped bass nursery habitats and is employed by the Albemarle Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP). Evan Knight, Jeff Dobbs, and Dan Zapf defended their MS theses successfully, and all are employed by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. All of these students were from the Rulifson lab. From the Dr. Jeff McKinnon Lab, Zach Harrison and Tyler Walston are studying genomic and phenotypic aspects of diversification in the banded killifish complex. Working on the West coast, Chris Anderson and Lorreen Agandi are investigating sexual

# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

dimorphism, predation and color pattern evolution in the threespine stickleback complex.

We all wish the SDAFS professionals and students a very productive and data rich summer!

-Roger Rulifson

# University of Tennessee Knoxville Student Subunit

The University of Tennessee's Wildlife and Fisheries Management students are given one of the best opportunities possible for collecting and nurturing various skills to use in their future careers through a membership in the Wildlife and Fisheries Society (a sub-unit of both the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society.) Members of this Society are exposed to both wildlife and fisheries management techniques and are encouraged to work on both. No member graduates from our program a stranger, as we not only build professional skill sets, but friendships, and work ethic. Whether it's through our volunteering work, getting out in the field with a campus lab or even with local wildlife resource

professionals, or working as a team to pull together our biggest game dinner yet, our student sub-unit is one that continually strives for growth and the opportunity to better itself.

### **VOLUNTEERING**

Members of our chapter have continually worked hard to make the community we all share a better place. Most recently, a number of us spent time in Great Smoky Mountains National Park volunteering with National Park Service staff and members of a local chapter of Trout Unlimited. Our members methodically walked the roads around protected mountain streams to clean up litter and hopefully help encourage future patrons of the Park to leave it as pristine as they found it. This was not only great community service, it was a networking opportunity between our students and local fisheries professional and a prominent conservation organization. Our members also recently helped sample and translocate Mountain Madtoms (Notorus eleutherus) and Bluebreast Darters (Nothonotus camurus) as part of the Pigeon River Recovery Project. The goal of this project is to collect various

aquatic species for reintroduction of native fauna into parts of the Pigeon River in hopes of the populations taking hold and restoring themselves to near historic levels. We have also had members volunteer with local nonprofit conservation groups such as Conservation Fisheries, Inc. (CFI) and the Little River Watershed Association in an effort to monitor reintroduction success of rare nongame species in the Southern Appalachian rivers of East Tennessee.

### A SOCIAL SOCIETY

The University of Tennessee's Wildlife and Fisheries Society prides itself on not just its volunteering record, but also the fact that every one of its members is a part of a tight knit group of friends that will hopefully be better equipped to work with each other and other colleagues in their future careers. To blow off some steam we try to find great ways for our members to come together and have some fun. Our annual crawfish boil, for example, is our biggest event solely meant to celebrate our members and the hard work put in throughout the school year. We are also planning a back to school bonfire for everyone to

(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

catch up from the summer and start the year off with good friends.

### WILD GAME DINNER

One of our highlight events of the year is our chapter's annual Wild Game Dinner. This year we hosted around 600 guests and raised over \$8,000 for the sub-unit to fund student travel to professional meetings, community service, and management projects. This feat would not have been possible if it weren't for our membership's enormous capacity for working hard as a team.

# LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Our Society is very optimistic about what this next year will hold. We are currently planning our third annual fish fry, our next wild game dinner, and as many volunteering opportunities for our membership as we can round up. The Society is looking to expand its fisheries side to be just as robust as its wildlife. The current president and vice-president are wanting to get much more active with our fisheries volunteering. We are planning on working with local professionals to assist with a children's fishing derby. We also look forward to continued work in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Society not only has plans for volunteering, we also want to try starting workshops on weekdays for all members to hone their outdoor skills, whether that's flycasting, marksmanship, or anything else. If you are interested in learning more about our sub-unit or are visiting the Knoxville area, our meetings

are held every other Wednesday at 5:30 on the Agricultural Campus at the University of Tennessee. You can also contact our Fisheries President, Kenneth McMahan, at kmcmaha7@vols.utk.edu. We're excited for another great year ahead of us!

(Photos courtesy of Dr. Brian Alford)



Above: Members of the UTK Student Subunit and their coadvisor Dr. Brian Alford (center) enjoy their annual end-of-year crawfish boil at the Kyker Bottoms wildlife management area in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains.

**Below:** Members of the UTK Student Subunit sample for Mountain Madtoms (Noturus eletherus) and Bluebreast Darters (Nothonotus camurus) that will be stocked into the Pigeon River as part of the river's recovery from over 100 years of pollution.



(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

# **Texas Chapter**

The Texas Chapter (TCAFS) would like to announce that their 2017 annual meeting will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas, January 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The meeting location will be the Holiday Inn Corpus Christi Downtown Marina (http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/h otels/us/en/corpuschristi/crpmb/hoteldetail). When calling for reservations (1-888-729-5058), please reference the Block Code "TCA." The hotel has agreed to extend the meeting rates to Wednesday and Saturday nights for before and after the meeting so bring your families! More information will be posted on the TCAFS website (http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tcmeetings/2017-meeting-homepage/) and our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/TCAF S/) as it becomes available.

Contact: Michele Nations michele.nations@tpwd.texas.gov

# Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards – 2016

By Michele Nations, Awards
Committee Chair

It is really an honor to work on the awards committee and be its chair where we seek out individuals and/or groups to recognize and

honor them for their achievements. I liken the responsibility to anglers seeking to find a trophy fish. We cast our lines and nets out in the form of emails, newsletter articles, listserv notices, Facebook posts, and one-on-one conversations with people who might have someone on their team that deserves recognition. Then it is up to the individual(s) to put together the information on the nomination form and send it in where it is judged by members of the awards committee. This year the people who participated in selecting the winners were Megan Bean, Dave Buzan, Tim Bonner, Dakus Geeslin, Charlie Munger, and Rick Ott. I'd also like to thank all of the people who worked hard to nominate and select these outstanding fisheries workers. I love my work!

# <u>Fisheries Administration</u> – Carl Kittel

Since Carl Kittel started work for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2006, he has



assumed the responsibility of managing the statewide production and stocking of the native and non-native fish species in Texas, which was approximately 25 million fish for 2015. This requires a great deal of coordination with TPWD management, hatchery, purchasing, and media staffs, as well as reaching out to the community representatives involved with the stocking of channel catfish and rainbow trout for the Neighborhood Fishin' Program. Carl is the Fish Culture section chair for the AFS and was the moderator of the Managing Challenges and Conflicts with the Wise Use of Fish Hatcheries and Traditional Production Objectives at the 145th Annual AFS Meeting in Portland, 2015.

# *Fisheries Education* – Dr.

Frances Gelwick
Dr. Frances Gelwick has
touched the lives of many
friends, colleagues and
students during her career.
Over the course of her career
at Texas A&M University (since
1995, and prior to retiring in
2015), she has had over 30
peer-reviewed articles, four
book chapters and 21

graduate students during her tenure at Texas A&M University. Her passion for teaching has carried her into many different classrooms; Dr. Gelwick taught 17 different classes through the span of her career. While at Texas A & M her primary classes were Fisheries Management and Animal Ecology, which she taught for 19 and14 years respectively. She has helped students and her Department through her involvement with a list of student groups and communities on campus that is too lengthy to list. Dr. Gelwick has been an excellent mentor and teacher during her tenure at Texas A & M, and we hope that her style of enthusiasm and outreach within the community will carry on in the hearts of her colleagues.

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# Fisheries Management – John Moczygemba

After graduating from Texas A&M University in May 1969, John Moczygemba, a charter member of the TCAFS, began working for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a summer intern for Bob Kemp at the Inland Fisheries District Office in San Antonio studying the life history of flathead catfish in the Medina and Rio Grande Rivers. After a tour in the Army, John returned to

TPWD in November, 1971 and was stationed at the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station under Ed Bonn and later Bruce Hysmith where he has been ever since. The biggest project was striped bass introduction into Texas from 1971 to 1976, as well as the experimental stocking of walleye into Lake Cypress Springs (1971-1975), impacts of increased hybrid striped bass stocking (1987-1991), hooking mortality of striped bass in Lake Texoma (1987-1994), evaluation of guided and unguided anglers from lakes Texoma and Fork (1997-2000), impacts of tournament mortality on a Texas Largemouth Bass fishery (2006-2010), and most recently a catch card survey of anglers at Lake Mineral Wells. He has worked in fighting the challenges brought on by zebra mussels, golden alga, blue-green algae blooms, drought, and competition for water. Through all of his years with TPWD, he has said the most rewarding times have been teaching kids to fish and working in the outdoors with people who love it as much as he does.

# *Fisheries Research* – Dr. Timothy Grabowski

Dr. Grabowski joined the USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Texas Tech University in 2010 as Assistant Leader for Fisheries and is also Assistant Professor with the Department of Natural Resources Management. Tim's research covers multiple basic and applied research areas and extends geographically from the Southern Great Plains to the Gulf Coast to marine waters off Iceland. Tim has successfully established strong collaborations with state and federal



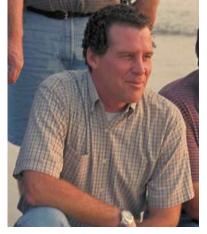
# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

agencies, as evidenced by the 14 grants awarded to him as PI or Co-PI by multiple agencies since joining the unit, a grantsmanship record that reflects the high value funding agencies place on his research results. Some of his most recent projects with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department focus on the effects of instream flows on Guadalupe Bass throughout their range in several watersheds, and on the state threatened Blue Sucker in multiple river systems. Tim has successfully managed to create a teamwork environment among his students and staff, and their research is integral to his program. For his research and research mentorship accomplishments and for his dedication to the preservation of aquatic natural resources in Texas, we honor Tim by presenting him with this year's Outstanding Fisheries Research Award.

# Fisheries Research – Honorable Mention – Gerald Kurten

Gerald Kurten has worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries (IF), Hatcheries Branch for over 24 years in various capacities: as hatchery biologist, hatchery manager, hatchery program director, and fish hatchery research and analytical services director. Though more than half of his tenure in these capacities

does not require participation in research, his enquiring mind and dedication to science motivated him to conduct research or collaborate on numerous research projects important to TPWD's mission, other natural resource agencies, and fisheries professionals. His research topics include golden algae control as well as ways to increase pond productivity and improve hatchery operation efficiency. Gerald has authored/co-authored over 27 publications, one of these was awarded the North American Journal of Aquaculture Best Paper Award. He also contributed to a book chapter in "Aquaculture Pond Fertilization: Impacts of Nutrient Input on Production" published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2012 and an article to the Featured Collection: Golden Alga (February 2010) of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association. Gerald has also mentored several hatchery biologists by helping them with study design, research proposal and



manuscript preparation, and data analysis. In his current position as hatchery research director, Gerald assists all hatchery biologists with all phases of research projects to bring projects to fruition in a timely manner. He has also served as graduate research committee member.

Fisheries Technical Support – Ramiro Medrano
Since joining Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland
Fisheries Division in 1998, Ramiro Medrano has
established himself as an outstanding, highly capable and
well respected fisheries technician, with duties typically
involving collaboration with inner and intra-agency staff,
stakeholders, and constituents. In his district office
located in Mathis, Texas, Mr. Medrano is the senior
technician and an extremely valuable asset to his work



# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

team; bearing much of the workload responsibility with regards to fieldwork, maintenance, and purchasing. Specifically, Mr. Medrano exhibits exceptional service focus leading the districts youth outreach efforts and assisting with grass carp permit processing representing TPWD with positive interactions in the public, performs his administrative duties flawlessly as the districts point purchasing agent, is a critical member in executing field sampling (both standard management and special project collections), is heavily involved in herbicide control operations both within his district and statewide (by maintaining his herbicide spray applicators license and attending annual continuing education classes), assists in the districts equipment and fleet maintenance, is heavily involved in all of the districts applied management activities (including stockings and habitat enhancement projects), and finally, this past year he played an instrumental role in enhancing the districts plant nursery by substantially increasing its size and production capabilities. There is no doubt Mr. Medrano is one of the most hard-working, knowledgeable, and well-respected fisheries technicians in the state and continues to move the needle forward in helping make fishing better in the state of Texas.

# Fisheries Student - Harlan Nichols

In combining his undergraduate and graduate efforts, Harlan Nichols has published two journal articles, has one in review, about to submit another (his thesis), will be author or co-author on at least three more, has written a successful grant, presented at numerous society meetings, taught numerous undergraduate labs,

and has assisted many other students with field work and laboratory processing. Harlan is a tremendous asset to his professor's program. Harlan Nichol is an outstanding MS student and well on his way to becoming an outstanding fisheries professional.

**Fisheries Student – Honorable Mention** – Eric Tsakiris Eric is a most promising young graduate researchers. His graduate research on the reproductive and general ecology

of Texas freshwater mussels has resulted in novel and important information on the habitat, distribution and reproduction in four species of Texas endemic candidate mussels that are currently being considered for listing under the US Endangered Species Act. To date, Eric has published 8 peer-reviewed papers, organized and executed over 100 field surveys for freshwater mussels within Texas, and has taught well over 200 undergraduate students in laboratory classes focused on general ecology and invertebrate biology at Texas A&M.





(Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

# Fisheries Student - Honorable Mention - Greg Cummings

Greg Cummings, who works for TPWD, was nominated for his graduate work modeling trout habitat using side-scan sonar technology in the Guadalupe River below Canyon Reservoir. His work will help guide Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries and its partners in future management and conservation of this important

fisheries resource. Greg is a non-traditional student, who has faced and conquered many challenges during his obtained degree; yet he still managed to help other students with projects and development with this limited time. He values education and is devoted to fisheries science, serving as a great example of motivation, dedication, and excellence in his work ethic.

Pisheries Student – Honorable Mention – Dave Ruppel
Dave Ruppel is a PhD student at Texas State University
(Aquatic Resources Program), co-author on one
publication, lead author on a publication under review, and
lead or co-author of several other studies that are designed
to quantify the relationship between fish communities and
instream flow, species distributions, reproductive biology,
and trophic ecology. Dave authored or co-authored 10
poster and oral presentations at TCAFS meetings (Conroe,
Pottsboro), Southern Division AFS (Nashville), AFS-Portland,
and SWAN (San Diego). Dave is lead on several studies,
requiring massive numbers of days in the field, postprocessing in the laboratory, and diligent organization of
data, while concurrently obligated to his service in the US Army
Reserves.

# Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Greg Conley

Greg Conley is a regional Kills and Spills Biologist for TPWD, covering portions of the Canadian, Red, Cypress, Sabine, Sulphur, upper Neches and upper Trinity River watersheds. In this role, Greg coordinates closely with the oil and gas industry, transportation authorities, water utilities, local municipalities and other organizations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to fisheries and other aquatic resources from development projects. In 2015, Greg conducted proactive assessments and planning to avoid and minimize impacts from 45 development projects. Additionally, Greg responded to 71 fish and wildlife kills and pollution events,







# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

recovering damaged or lost resources. Greg has been an active member of the TCAFS, serving as secretary-treasurer and in various other roles in recent years. Overall, Greg is a highly professional, capable, committed, passionate, enthusiastic, and ethical fisheries professional and highly valued member of TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work – Dr. Jennifer Pollack Dr. Jennifer Pollack was nominated for a TCAFS award in conservation and education. Her research focuses on the conservation and restoration ecology of marine and estuarine organisms and habitats, and more specifically the Texas oyster fishery. She has spearheaded the creation and facilitation of an oyster shell-recycling program for the Texas Coastal Bend known as "Sink Your Shucks", and developed countless outreach and educational tools related to coastal conservation, helping to educate community youth on the importance of restoration activities throughout local K-12



programs. In addition to Dr. Pollack's gusto for community outreach, her enthusiasm and passion for helping her graduate and undergraduate students succeed in all academic aspects is unparalleled, many of which have continued on to pursue advanced degrees and careers in the fisheries sectors.

# **Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** – Zoe Ann Stinchcomb

Zoe Ann Stinchcomb was first hired primarily to develop learning activities at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, but through her own initiative, other activities were undertaken in order to reach non-traditional customers and provide learning experiences above and beyond what is available at TFFC. Zoe Ann has established a working relationship with groups as diverse as Wildlife Forever (a national conservation organization), the Texas Wildlife Association (a statewide private landowner organization), Stephen F. Austin

State University and Texas Tech State University, the North American Native Fishes Association, Sky Ranch (an outdoor learning youth camp), Trinity Valley Community College, Blooming Grove Elementary School, St. John's Episcopal School, and the Athens, Grand Prairie and Highland Park Independent School Districts in developing and implementing outdoor learning opportunities. Zoe Ann restructured educational programming at TFFC to more completely reflect TPWD's mission and respond to visitor suggestions. Zoe Ann volunteered to coordinate the Texas division of the Wildlife Forever State Fish Art Contest and built participation to the point that Texas has one-fourth of the entries in the entire nation and the most of any state. Because of Zoe Ann's improvements to educational programming at TFFC, the



# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

Armentrout Foundation has funded educational programming at TFFC for 3 years for a total of more that \$100,000.

# **Certificate of Appreciation** – Michele Nations

Michele Nations is an active member of TCAFS who currently chairs the Awards Committee after having served as a member of that committee for several years. If that were not enough she also chairs the History Committee, a position she assumed in 2009 when veteran historian Ray Mathews retired after 10 years of service. She instituted and maintains the Chapter Facebook page where she is a prolific poster on topics related to fisheries. For years she has also donated her photographic skills in service of the Chapter by documenting its activities. She is one of the Chapter's previously unsung heroes and the TCAFS ExCom decided to bypass the Awards Committee and award her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her devoted service to the Chapter.

She has been employed with TPWD for almost 29 years and she started her employment with the agency as an F&W Technician at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery in March 1987. Soon afterwards she transitioned into the administrative and staff support role in the hatchery regional office. In that capacity Michele has seen them come and go. Former supervisors have included Joe Warren and Gerald Kurten and she is currently working for Karl Kittel. During her tenure in the regional office she has relocated eastward from the Dundee State Fish Hatchery in Electra to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens and finally back west again to the Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery in Graford when the new hatchery administrative building was completed. She is currently a Staff Services Officer for the TPWD Inland Fisheries Region 1 Hatchery Office.

When it became evident that TPWD's financial program was incapable of providing information in a useful format to enable management of budgets, she developed an Access Database that has been used to manage,

record, and monitor budgets for Inland Fisheries and provide monthly reports to field offices. She continues to maintain that database to date. During the restructuring and amalgamation of Inland Fisheries Regional Offices she has provided invaluable support at regional and district levels during this transition. She was instrumental in setting up the initial purchasing contract for Channel Catfish for the Neighborhood Fishin' program, in managing the commercial contract for purchasing feed for fish hatcheries, in establishing the stocking notification program, and in creating and managing a hatchery reprint database archive system.

# 2016 Best Presentation and Poster Awards

### **Professional Poster:**

"Effect of pond permanence on aquatic insect-mediated flux of methylmercury to terrestrial ecosystems" by Chumchal, Matt (primary



# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

author), R. W. Drenner, K. J. Adams, F. Greenhill, C. Gober, A. Courville, and L. Lossau, Texas Christian University

# **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



### **Student Poster:**

"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

# **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



# Virginia Tech

Chapter

The Virginia Tech Chapter of the American Fisheries Society holds the distinction of being the only studentrun chapter among all the chapters in the American Fisheries Society. We

hold monthly meetings and workshops to benefit our largely undergraduate student based membership. This past year we welcomed a wide array of speakers. We welcomed Dr. Melcher from Austria to speak about his research in Africa. We had Dr. Steve Sammons from Auburn University, who researches native Shoal Bass in Alabama's Rivers. The Virginia Tech Chapter welcomed world renowned shark photographer, George Probst to speak about Great White conservation and photography. In addition to speakers, we have held workshops to educate our members. We held a Catfish



Virginia Tech Chapter members host a table at the Virginia Science Festival to teach kids about local stream fishes.

# (Chapter and Subunit Updates Continued)

otolith removal and processing workshop. Members also got to experience new technologies in elastomer fish tagging methods.

As a chapter we have helped in numerous volunteer opportunities around the community. VT chapter members assisted in Mussel Salvage at Claytor Lake during scheduled water draw -owns. Chapter members assisted Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) in their annual depletion sampling held in the Upper New River. The Chapter hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Mudbass Kid's Fishing Tournament with the help of local sponsors and member support.

Members attended and presented research at both the Southern Division Meeting in Wheeling, WV and the Virginia and North Carolina Joint Chapter Meeting in Danville, VA. Members presented both poster presentations and gave oral presentations on their research. The Virginia Tech Chapter also held elections for new officers: Hae Kim - President, Skylar Wolf - Vice-President, Treasurer -Jason Falcone, Secretary – Haley Jenkins, Outreach - Alex Pelletier.

# Miscellaneous Announcements

# **FAMS Update**

The software Fishery Analysis and Modeling Simulator (FAMS version 1.64) is available from at American Fisheries Society bookstore (<a href="http://fisheries.org/bookstore/">http://fisheries.org/bookstore/</a>). This software is an upgrade to Fishery Analysis and Simulation Tools (FAST) and operates on 64-bit systems for Windows 7 and higher. FAMS is designed to simulate and evaluate the dynamics of exploited fish populations. It allows for the evaluation of minimum, slot, and inverted length limits and bag limits on exploited fisheries. Input parameters require age-structure data. FAMS can predict population parameters including the number of fish harvested and dying naturally, mean weight and length of harvested fish, number in the population above and below some lengths of interest, total number of fish and biomass in the population, stock density indices, number of age-1 fish, and the spawning potential ratio. Other features include:

- Addition of an age-length key menu item to allow users to randomly assign ages to un-aged fish based on a sub-sample of known-age fish.
- Enhanced slot limit option to allow users to select a length of interest. This estimates the number of fish in the population reaching a particular length in addition to the number of fish reaching the lower and upper slot limits.
- Addition of more species and their associated length categories and standard weight equations based on the 3rd Edition of Fisheries Techniques.
- Enhanced spreadsheet functionality and compatibility with Microsoft Excel.
- Enhanced Natural Mortality Estimation feature.

(Miscellaneous Announcements Continued)

# PhD Opportunity

**Ad for AFS member**: Leandro Castello, membership # 81710

**Category**: Student opportunities

**Position or Title:** Ph.D. Assistantship available in Fish and Fisheries Ecology and Conservation in the Amazon

**Agency/State:** Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Responsibilities: A highly qualified and motivated candidate is sought to develop a PhD study on the broad topic of Fish and Fisheries Ecology and Conservation in the Brazilian Amazon. More information on this position can be found here http://blogs.lt.vt.edu/castello/.

Qualifications: Applicants must have: (i) a M.S. in ecology, fisheries, or related field; (ii) strong record of involvement in research; and (iii) prior experience in the peerreviewed publication process.

**Salary:** The selected candidate will have full tuition, stipend, and subsidized health insurance.

# **Ad Closing Date:**

Anticipated start is August 2016 or January 2017.

Contact/Email: E-mail questions about the position to Leandro Castello (leandro@vt.edu).

Contributed

**Photos** 

Photos are courtesy of Brenden Runde and are part of his research at North Carolina State University.



