



Summer 2012

# Southern Division News

*Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society*



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

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## A Message from the President

Brian Murphy, SDAFS President, [murphybr@vt.edu](mailto:murphybr@vt.edu)

### Upcoming Meetings

Well, summer arrived officially today, although to many I'm sure that it seems that it has been with us for months already. Summer means lots of field sampling for many of our members, but it also means that the AFS Annual Meeting is just around the corner (August 19-23). Registration for the meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota is now open. Be sure to beat the early registration deadline (June 30), and get your hotel reserved early. Meeting information can be found at <http://afs2012.org/>. Students who are Fish Culture Section members should check out the opportunity for travel grants to the St. Paul meeting at <https://sites.google.com/site/fishculturesection/recognizing-excellence/student-travel-awards>.



Planning is proceeding for our next SDAFS Mid-Year Meeting, February 7-10, 2013 in Nashville. The Tennessee Chapter will be our hosts, and we all owe them a big "Thank You" for the tremendous effort that they are putting into planning. Keep an eye on the SDAFS website's Meetings webpage for details (<http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2013/default.htm>).

### AFS Happenings

- AFS was a co-sponsor of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress, just completed last month in Edinburgh, Scotland. Over 1,300 fisheries professionals from around the world attended, including yours truly. Hundreds of papers were presented on everything from the potential impacts of the animal rights movement on recreational fishing, to efforts to improve management in every fishery from deep-sea fisheries near Antarctica to small lakes and rivers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The picture accompanying this column is my 'certification' of attendance. That northern pike was the result of weekend fishing trip to Loch Katrine near Doune, Scotland.
- A Professional Fisheries Salary Survey is underway, which should provide useful comparative data for fisheries professionals throughout our Division and beyond.
- A special Search Committee has been formed to begin the process of replacing Executive Director Gus Rassam when he retires (no date is set as of yet). Past SDAFS President Bob Curry is representing our Division on that committee.

*~continued on page 2*

- An AFS Special Committee just completed a year's investigation and discussion of the status of 'Affiliate Members' within AFS. Several Sections have such an official membership category (primarily for members of other Societies who interact closely with AFS members and Sections), and many Chapters have 'local' members who are not members of the Parent AFS. After much discussion, the Special Committee has concluded that it is not to the benefit of AFS, or present AFS members, to create a separate 'Affiliate Member' category at the national level. I served on that Special Committee, and will be happy to discuss this issue with anyone interested.
- AFS has created a new database for gray-literature fisheries reports that should be of great use to all fisheries professionals. Known as *Fisheries Reports* (<http://fisheriesreports.org>), this database is a publically accessible repository for reports from agencies, universities, and other organizations that are not available in the traditional journal literature. Anyone can search the database freely to access reports. If you want to upload a report of your own so that it is widely accessible, you need to log into the site. Go to the 'log-in' tab located in the bottom right of the page, under 'Meta.' Enter the username 'submit' and the password 'rew34iol.'

### *SDAFS Happenings*

- I would like to create a network of SDAFS professionals who will spearhead getting the fisheries work done in our Division posted into *Fisheries Reports*. This will help all of us search the literature more effectively, and it will publicize the good work done by professionals in our Division. I foresee a network of agency, NGO, and university contacts who will work to make sure that important work done in their group gets posted. If you would be willing to help organize such an effort within SDAFS, please contact me directly.
- We have arranged to make conference calling capabilities available to the chapters and committees. Travel restrictions have impacted everyone, which has made attendance at meetings difficult for many. If your committee or chapter can benefit from access to the Division's contracted service for conference calling, please feel free to contact SDAFS Secretary/Treasurer Craig Bonds ([craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us)) for instructions on how to use this service. We are also looking into web-based videoconference capabilities. If you have experience with such web videoconferencing and would be willing to help set this up for SDAFS, please contact me.
- Our annual election for SDAFS officers is coming soon. A fine slate of candidates for the upcoming election is presented in this newsletter. Watch your email for a link to the election ballot.
- President-Elect Mike Allen has been working with NCSU student and artist Patrick Cooney on designs for a new SDAFS logo. Watch for an email with a survey link that will let you vote on options for the new logo.
- Plans are proceeding for formation of a new AFS Chapter in Puerto Rico, which will be part of the Southern Division. Discussions are also underway about the possibility of a Cuba Chapter at some point in the future.
- Mike Allen (University of Florida) moved up to President-Elect this year for SDAFS, and as such is our second representative on the national Governing Board for AFS (along with me). John Jackson (Arkansas Tech University) is our new SDAFS Vice-President, and will become our SDAFS representative to the national Management Committee (a subset of the national Governing Board) when I finish my term as President at the Nashville meeting. Craig Bonds (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) assumed the duties of Secretary-Treasurer when Liz Osier Moats moved out of the Division last year, and we are grateful that he was willing to jump in to help the Division. Craig is a candidate for a full term in that office in the upcoming election. Andrew Rypel (Virginia Tech) has replaced John Jackson as the Chair of the SDAFS Student Affairs Committee, after John's election to SDAFS Vice-President.

## 2012 Officer Elections

In the coming days, a ballot will be emailed to all SDAFS members containing election information. This year, there are two outstanding candidates for each available position including Dennis Riecke and Kim Bonvechio for Vice President, Craig Bonds and Linda Lombardi-Carlson for Secretary-Treasurer, and Tim Churchill and Jill Jenkins for SDAFS Representative to the Nominating Committee.

### Candidates for Vice President

**Dennis Riecke** received a BS degree in Fishery Biology and Aquatic Science from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1982 and a MS degree in Fisheries Management from Mississippi State University in 1985.

Dennis has worked for the Kansas Fish and Game Commission as a District Fisheries Biologist, (January 1985- April 1987), in Louisiana as an Aquaculture Research Associate (May 1987-November 1988) and for the past 23 years as a fisheries biologist and a fisheries coordinator for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP). He current duties include serving as Environmental Coordinator, representing MDWFP on the Miss. Dept. of Environmental Quality permit board; providing fisheries technical information on farm pond and aquatic plant management; helping communities enroll existing water bodies in an urban fisheries program; and on issues concerning commercial fishing, oxbow lake/public water access, aquatic invasive species, instream flow and drafting or revising state laws and fisheries regulations.



Dennis joined the AFS as a student in 1979 and became a Certified Fisheries Professional in 1996 and was recertified in 2002 and 2007. He has served on the Membership Concerns (1987-1991) and Continuing Education (1992-1995) committees and has served on the SDAFS Reservoir, Small Impoundments and Warmwater Streams Committees. He has been a member of the Fisheries History, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Administrator, International Fisheries and Introduced Fishes Sections. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Mississippi Chapter (1997-1999) and the Warmwater Streams Committee (2000-2005). Since 2003 he has served as Chairman of the SDAFS Resolutions Committee since 2003 and on the AFS Parent Society Resolutions Committee. In 2009, he was appointed Chairman of the AFS Parent Society Resolutions Committee. He authored the SDAFS resolution on professional safety, which was adopted by the SDAFS and by the AFS Parent Society in 2005. He authored the SDAFS resolution on instream flow, which was adopted in 2007 by SDAFS and by the AFS Parent Society in 2008. He authored the SDAFS Resolution on the federal funding of aquatic nuisance species which was adopted in 2012. He was the author of the Defensive and Safe Driving article and coauthor of the Chemical Application and Hazardous Waste Safety Use article in the AFS Safety Handbook, published online in December 2008. He was fundraising cochairman for the 2012 SDAFS Midyear Meeting in Biloxi, MS. He has served as Secretary of the Instream Flow Council since October 2008. He has served as a fisheries manuscript reviewer for SEAFWA and the North American Journal of Fisheries Management. He coauthored the third (1997) and fourth (2010) editions of *Managing Mississippi Ponds and Small Lakes: A Landowner's Guide*. He has authored over 30 popular articles about fisheries for hunting and fishing magazines and newspapers and has had 8 photographs published in books and brochures. He was designated a Certified Public Manager in 2011.

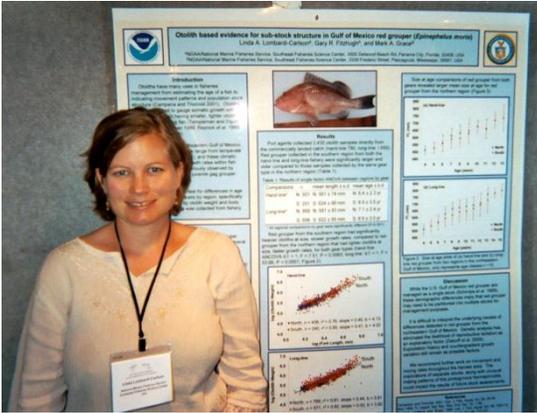


**Kim Bonvechio** received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of South Carolina in 1998 and Master of Science in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Florida in 2001. She has worked the majority of her career as a freshwater fisheries researcher with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). In this role, she implemented and continues to evaluate standardized sampling procedures for Florida's statewide long-term monitoring program in lentic systems. She also participates on multiple teams and committees, including FWC's Data Management Team, Publications Editorial Board, and Web Team, and the American Eel Technical Committee with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. She has served several roles within the American Fisheries Society, including peer reviewer for multiple AFS journals and books, member of the SDAFS Reservoir Committee, and member of the South Carolina and Florida Chapters. Her AFS involvement also includes co-organizing a professional workshop at the 1999 SDAFS Chattanooga meeting, creating an online abiotic habitat manual for the SDAFS Reservoir Committee in 2000, and serving as Newsletter Editor for the Florida AFS Chapter from 2002-2005. "The American Fisheries Society – from the Parent Society down to the individual chapter – provides invaluable opportunities for professional development, networking, and collaboration. If elected, I will commit my efforts to serving all of the members of the Southern Division and work hard to make our organization the best it can be, now and into the future."

## Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

**Craig Bonds** is a regional director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division where his work focuses on recreational fisheries management in public reservoirs, urban impoundments, and rivers in East Texas. He is a thirteen-year veteran of his agency. Craig earned his B.S. from Texas A&M University in 1996 and his M.S. from Virginia Tech in 2000. He has been a member of AFS since 1997 and is a Certified Fisheries Professional. He is a graduate of his agency's Natural Leaders Program and has experience in various leadership and service positions. Craig has served the Texas Chapter AFS (TCAFS) at many levels (Past-President, current; President, Feb 2011 – Feb 2012; President-Elect, 2010-2011; Secretary/Treasurer, 2007-2009 ; Editorial Committee Chair, 2005-2007; Pond Management Committee Chair, 2002-2005). He recently (2006-2008) served the Southern Division AFS as Ballot Committee Chair, playing a role in the Division's successful transition from paper to electronic election procedures. He is currently serving by appointment the remainder of outgoing SDAFS Secretary/Treasurer Liz Osier Moats' second-year term, and has a thorough knowledge of Chapter and Division finances, IRS reporting requirements, and responsibilities. Craig is a frequent participant at AFS Chapter and Division meetings, earning the 2007 TCAFS Best Professional Oral Presentation Award, the SDAFS John F. Dequine Award for Best Paper at the 2006 and 2008 SEAFWA Conferences, and two-time winner of the TCAFS Outstanding Fisheries Worker Award for the categories of Special Recognition (2011) and Administration (2012). He has been an active contributor on several Division technical committees. If elected, Craig pledges to work enthusiastically to uphold the Division's high standard for service, professionalism, information exchange, and student support. He feels that he has invested considerable time and effort into transitioning into the Division's Secretary-Treasurer's role, and would like the opportunity to utilize his knowledge and skills for a full term.





It is truly an honor to be nominated for the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Fisheries Society- Southern Division Executive Committee. I, **Linda Lombardi-Carlson**, have been involved with the American Fisheries Society (AFS), first as a national member in 2002 and more recently at the chapter level as a member of the Executive Committee Florida Chapter from 2006-2011. During my years on the Florida Chapter Executive Committee, I spent three years as the Secretary/Treasurer and three years at the president level (president-elect, president, and past-president). My involvement with the Southern Division commenced in 2010 when the Florida Chapter hosted the 2011 Southern Division Spring Meeting in Tampa, FL where I was heavily involved with the planning and organization. It was at this meeting that I fully recognized the importance of AFS at

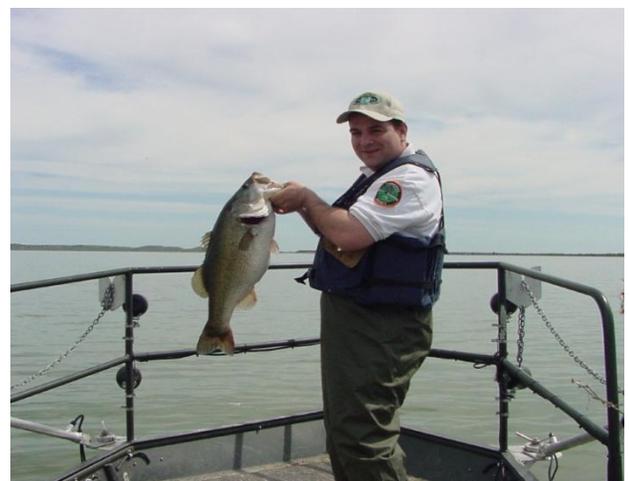
the division level, where the relaxed atmosphere of the meeting allowed state and federal biologists, technicians and university professors and students to interact and learn more about the outstanding research being conducted throughout the division.

Initially, my involvement with the American Fisheries Society began during my undergraduate studies at the University of North Carolina–Wilmington as a student member. Later during graduate work, Dr. Glenn Parsons (past president AFS Mississippi Chapter) encouraged me to participate and give my first presentation at the AFS-Mississippi Chapter meeting. Once I completed my master’s degree and moved to Florida, I became a member of the American Fisheries Society-Florida Chapter. Since 2002, I have worked as a research fishery biologist at the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory in Panama City, FL and have attended Florida chapter and parent society annual meetings. My research is directed on the conservation and management of Serranid species from the Gulf of Mexico. Currently, I am a PhD candidate at the University of Florida, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, broadening my knowledge in population dynamic modeling.

During my tenure on the Florida Chapter Executive Committee, I spent considerable time organizing chapter level meetings (i.e, registration, maintaining financial records, symposiums), and corresponding with other members of the Florida chapter and at the division level. It is this experience that will enable me to fully serve the society as Secretary/Treasurer. If elected as Secretary/Treasurer, I will do my best to continue to strive to best serve the society by keeping the financial records and meeting notes organized and available to all Southern Division AFS members. Thank you for this consideration.

## Candidates for SDAFS Representative to the Nominating Committee

I, **Tim Churchill**, began my fisheries career at the Illinois Natural History in 1988, while I was earning a B.S. at University of Illinois. I considered this job the most fun that I had ever had working, and decided to continue the journey as a graduate student at Tennessee Tech University earning an M.S. in 1992. My interest in research was still high, so I took a job as a research associate with North Carolina State University managing a reservoir bass study in Puerto Rico. I left the island in 1997 to become statewide reservoir program manager for Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) in Nashville. I became a special assistant to TWRA’s director in 2006, writing grants and coordinating planning efforts before returning to the reservoir fisheries position in 2010. My background is largely in applied fisheries research and management, and I have



authored or co-authored more than a dozen peer-reviewed papers. Most importantly, I have had the pleasure of working with many, many AFS members over the past two decades.

AFS has been an important part of my professional life since I joined in 1989. I have belonged to several chapters (IL, TN, and NC) and participated in all levels of the Society. I have been a longtime member of the AFS Southern Division and served on the reservoir committee since 1997. I am incoming chair for the striped bass committee and have served on the parent society's policy committee, as president of the Tennessee Chapter AFS, and planning committee member for divisional and parent society meetings. I have also served as a reviewer for many AFS journal articles. The Society creates and facilitates so many good things for fisheries professionals that I have always felt it was my duty to serve where and when I could. As Southern Division's representative to the AFS nominating committee, I will strive to help identify those who will best serve as AFS leaders in the coming year.



Dr. **Jill Jenkins** earned a Ph.D. in microbiology with a focus on comparative immunology and mechanisms of virulence in channel catfish from Memphis State University in 1991; a M.S. in microbiology and biochemistry with a focus on steelhead trout immunology in 1985 from Idaho State University, and; a B.S. in biology from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1981 with a major in Microbiology. She has adjunct graduate faculty appointments in four departments at Louisiana universities.

Since 1992 she has served with the Department of the Interior, first in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and then with the U.S. Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA as a Research Microbiologist. Jenkins investigates the study of potential impacts of environmental stressors at the cellular and molecular levels, and research projects are often collaborative and multidisciplinary in nature. Major areas of focus include biomarker development, endocrine disruption, genetics, and comparative immunology. Dr. Jenkins works with federally endangered animals, as well as invasive fish species. Specific information can be found at <https://profile.usgs.gov/jenkinsj>.

Jenkins has held AFS chapter memberships since 1983. As a member of Fish Health Section, she was a co-organizer of the International Symposium for Aquatic Animal Health, in New Orleans, Sept. 1-5, 2002, and co-editor the Proceedings. She reviews for AFS journals, and served on the editorial board of the Journal of Aquatic Animal Health as Associate Editor in Immunology from 1998-2004. From 2005 - 2007 she was the SD's representative in the Education Section. While serving the LA Chapter ([www.sdafs.org/laafs/](http://www.sdafs.org/laafs/)) from 2006 - 2010 as Pres Elect, Pres, then Past Pres., she assisted the AFS Hurricane Relief Initiative in providing help to the state's fisheries professionals, from which the template for the parent society's Disaster Relief Program for future disasters was generated. In 2008, the LAAFS was awarded Best Large Chapter in the SD AFS and, for the first time in 2009, LA hosted the SD annual meeting. Jenkins edited this meeting's Proceedings, and reviewed AFS Symposium 64, 2008: Mitigating Impacts of Natural Hazards on Fishery Ecosystems. In 2009 at SDAFS, she co-hosted a Workshop "Asian carp: ploidy determination and need". Jenkins was invited by the current AFS President to lead an AFS Special Committee to revise the first edition of the Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research (Nickum et al., 2004; [http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/policy\\_16.pdf](http://www.fisheries.org/afs/docs/policy_16.pdf)). Currently she is writing a paper for inclusion in an AFS Special Publication on the 2012 AFS annual meeting's Oil Symposium.

She is pleased to run for the Division's Representative to the Parent Society Nominating Committee.

## Upcoming Meetings



142nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Minneapolis - St Paul, MN, August 19 - 23, 2012  
FISHERIES NETWORKS: BUILDING ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Register now to attend the 2012 Twin Cities Annual Meeting in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, beautiful Minnesota. The meeting focus is Fisheries Networks: Building Ecological, Social and Professional Relationships. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to network with fisheries professionals and students, stay current on the latest in fisheries science, and enjoy the sights and scenes of the Twin Cities and beyond. Early registration ends 29 June 2012. For more information, visit [www.afs2012.org](http://www.afs2012.org).

### 2013 Southern Division Spring Meeting Nashville, Tennessee



The Tennessee Chapter and Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to join us in Music City USA at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, for the 2013 Southern Division Spring Meeting, February 7-10, 2013. Nashville is the capital city of Tennessee with a population of 600,000. It is the home of the NFL Tennessee Titans and the NHL Nashville Predators. It is also home to the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center. Despite its big city attractions, Nashville has a small town atmosphere and plenty of southern hospitality. The Country Music Hall of Fame, the Wildhorse Saloon, the Ryman Auditorium, and too many honky-tonks to count are all located within easy walking distance of the conference hotel.

The Tennessee Chapter has hosted this meeting twice before, in Chattanooga (1999) and Memphis (2007), and we co-hosted the first Mid-Year Southern Division meeting in 1993. As your host for the AFS Southern Division Spring Meeting '13, we are committed to providing the perfect environment for attendees to exchange ideas, share and acquire cutting-edge information, renew old acquaintances, and forge new ones.

Details regarding accommodations, reservation procedures, and online meeting registration will be available shortly at <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2013/default.htm>. The meeting schedule will be as follows - **Thursday, February 7:** Technical Committee meetings. **Friday, February 8:** EXCOM meeting, Continuing Education workshops, Student Best Paper presentations, first day of Black Bass Symposium. **All day Saturday and Sunday morning, February 9-10:** posters, contributed oral papers, symposia.

Please note that in lieu of a plenary session, Saturday morning will kick-off with a full suite of technical presentations.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEES:** Technical committee chairs needing morning, afternoon, or all-day sessions on Thursday February 8, 2013 should indicate their time requirements and expected number of participants in an email to Dave Rizzuto, Local Arrangements and General Chair, [David.Rizzuto@tn.gov](mailto:David.Rizzuto@tn.gov) **DUE DATE: Monday October 1, 2012.**

**WORKSHOPS:** We are soliciting proposals for half-day or one-day workshops that will be held on Friday February 9, 2013. Please send a brief synopsis (2-3 sentences) of an idea you have for a workshop to Brady Ray, Workshop Chair [bray@utm.edu](mailto:bray@utm.edu) **DUE DATE: Monday October 1, 2012.**

**SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS:** The Program Committee is now soliciting proposals for half-day (~10 talks) or full-day symposia. Symposia may include individual presentations, panel discussions, or any innovative format designed to achieve the organizer's goals. Proposals should include symposium objectives, a tentative list of participants, and the topics each will cover. **PROPOSAL DUE DATE: Monday October 1, 2012.** Organizers will be responsible for submitting abstracts for all of the presentations in their symposium (see abstract submission deadline below). Session organizers will be notified regarding acceptance of proposals by 1 November 2010. Proposals for symposia should be emailed to Tim Churchill, Symposium Chair; [tim.churchill@tn.gov](mailto:tim.churchill@tn.gov). One symposium already planned for the 2013 meeting is the long-awaited Black Bass Diversity and Conservation Symposium (2.5 days of talks).

## FIRST CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

Individuals who want to present research or management findings (either completed or ongoing) will send their abstracts via email directly to Phil Bettoli (oral presentations) [pbettoli@tntech.edu](mailto:pbettoli@tntech.edu) or Frank Fiss (posters) [frank.fiss@tn.gov](mailto:frank.fiss@tn.gov). Abstract submissions should include all author affiliations and email addresses and follow standard AFS journal guidelines for formatting abstracts. An example of a properly formatted abstract will soon be posted online at the meeting website. The body of the abstract should not exceed 250 words. It will be assumed that the first author listed is the presenter unless otherwise noted. Students wishing to compete for the "Student Best Paper Award" must indicate so in their email. If the principal contact person for correspondence regarding the abstract is someone other than the presenter, please specify. **ABSTRACT DUE DATE: Friday NOVEMBER 30, 2012.**

All talks will be 20 minutes long (15 minutes for the talk and five minutes for Q&A) and PowerPoint presentations are required for all talks. Posters will be exhibited throughout the meeting.

## Can't Attend SDAFS Meetings?

Hundreds of podcasts of presentations from past meeting are available on the SDAFS website. The most recent addition includes podcasts from the 2012 meeting in Biloxi, MS, which can be found at [http://129.15.97.19/sdafs\\_2012](http://129.15.97.19/sdafs_2012).





## Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation

A special symposium is being organized to be held in conjunction with the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN in February 2013. This symposium will emphasize the conservation need and diversity of black basses (genus *Micropterus*) in their native habitats. Of the nine described species or subspecies of black bass in North America, three were described in the past 12 years and more possibly exist as undescribed species (e.g., Bartram's bass and Cuatro Ciénegas bass). Many black bass populations have conservation issues related to genetic integrity and habitat degradation. Building on previous work, this symposium will highlight the conservation of native black basses in an AFS publication that contains accounts related to:

- Biology/ecology/life history requirements
- Habitat management and restoration
- Conservation genetics
- Fish populations, fisheries, and human dimensions

The symposium organizers will target scientists for invited submissions to the symposium, but contributed abstracts that fit the theme of the symposium are encouraged and will also be considered for the symposium and book. If you are conducting research on a black bass species or unique population that can contribute to the understanding or conservation of black basses, feel free to contact the steering committee at [BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com](mailto:BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com) for possible inclusion in the symposium. Authors of papers who want to be included in the publication must have their manuscript submitted by the date of the meeting.

Abstracts (in plain text or MS-Word) are to be submitted to [BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com](mailto:BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com) by 10/31/2012 and must include:

1. Type of presentation preferred (oral or poster)
2. To be considered for publication? (yes or no)
3. Presentation topic (select from below)
  - Biology/ecology/life history requirements
  - Habitat management and restoration
  - Conservation genetics
  - Fish populations, fisheries, and human dimensions
4. Title, in upper/lower case format
5. Author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s) as they should appear
6. Name of presenter, mailing address, phone, and email
7. Text of abstract in 300 words or less.



# 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society



September 8-12, 2013

Little Rock, Arkansas

The Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and 2013 AFS President John Boreman cordially invite you to attend next year's Annual Meeting in the Natural State. The meeting theme is *Preparing for the Challenges Ahead*.

Little Rock, nestled in the heart of the Natural State, offers down-home hospitality with big city flair. The Peabody Hotel in downtown Little Rock hosts the event while the AFS Technical Program and other meeting events will be held at the adjacent Statehouse Convention Center. The Statehouse Convention Center is in Little Rock's River Market district, which hosts abundant cultural, entertainment and dining options. Little Rock also offers excellent trolley service for nearby attractions. For those interested in an extended visit, the "Natural State" offers world-class fishing, hiking, whitewater, and cultural experiences. Arkansas also offers excellent state and national parks ranging from the Crater of Diamonds State Park, the world's only public diamond mine, to the Buffalo River National Park, America's first national river.

The 2013 AFS Annual Meeting will bring professionals together to network and share knowledge in fisheries science and management. Speakers will present a broad range of topics at the plenary session, technical symposia, and contributed oral and poster sessions. An array of continuing education courses will also be offered.

We hope you will plan on coming to Little Rock to partake in hospitality, friendship, networking and education. You won't be disappointed. Your attendance at the 143<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will help in "Preparing for the Challenges Ahead".



# SDAFS Resolution Needs Your Input

As per the SDAFS bylaws, all proposed resolutions must be published in the summer newsletter to receive comments prior to consideration by SDAFS Officers and a vote by the SDAFS membership at our annual SDAFS Business Meeting. The resolutions committee has proposed a resolution for federal funding of the Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass and Silver Carps in the United States. Comments are requested and are due by **September 1, 2012**. Send all comments to Dennis Riecke [dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us](mailto:dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us).

## **RESOLUTION ON FEDERAL FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANGEMENT AND CONTROL PLAN FOR BIGHEAD, BLACK, GRASS, AND SILVER CARPS IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this resolution the term “Asian Carp” refers to four species: black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) and silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) and;

WHEREAS, feral bighead, grass and silver carp have all established reproducing populations in several major rivers in the United States and;

WHEREAS, “the continued captures of adult black carp in... the Mississippi River Basin provide strong evidence that the species is reproducing and already firmly established” in the United States (Nico et al. 2005) and;

WHEREAS, bighead carp, black carp, grass carp and silver carp have been reported from 23, 4 45 and 15 states, respectively and;

WHEREAS scientific risk modeling based on climate match predicts the potential geographic range of Asian carp to include most of the United States and much of North America (Mandrak and Cudmore 2004; Nico et al. 2005; Cudmore and Mandrak 2011) and;

WHEREAS, Asian carp have become established and thrive in the altered conditions of river ecosystems in the interior of the United States and;

WHEREAS, bighead carp and silver carp directly compete with native planktivorous fishes and the abundance and condition of native fishes have decreased in portions of the Mississippi River Basin following the establishment of bighead and silver carp (Irons et al. 2007, Phelps et al. *unpublished data*) and;

WHEREAS, native, large river fishes such as the paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) have struggled in these disturbed waters and introduced Asian Carps have become established and thrive in the altered habitats of the Mississippi River System and;

WHEREAS, silver carp pose a threat to human safety due to their jumping behavior when startled and have caused numerous personal injuries and property damage to recreational boaters and fishers (Kolar et al. 2007) and;

WHEREAS, fishing, hunting, boating, and other wildlife-associated recreation may be adversely affected by feral populations of bighead and silver carps (Kolar et al. 2007) and;

WHEREAS, the life history traits of Asian carp indicate that these four species have a high probability of causing ecological and economic effects where populations become established (Mandrak and Cudmore 2004, Kolar et al. 2007; Nico et al. 2005) and in some locations of the Mississippi River Basin, such effects have occurred and;

WHEREAS, using risk assessment methods described by the Risk Assessment and Management Committee (1996) the US Geological Survey concluded that the organism risk potentials for bighead, black, and silver carps were all high meaning that these fish present an unacceptable risk (Kolar et al. 2007; Nico et al. 2005) and;

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service added all forms of live bighead, black and silver carps to the list of injurious wildlife under the Lacey Act, prohibiting their importation and interstate transport except for limited permitted purposes and;

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force organized an Asian Carp Working Group to develop a comprehensive national Asian Carp management and control plan and;

WHEREAS, the Asian Carp Working Group was charged with developing a plan that first and foremost protects our Nation's natural resources and using a collaborative process that effort was highly successful and that group published the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* in 2007 (National Plan; Conover et al. 2007) which developed 48 strategies and 131 recommendations to manage and control Asian Carps and;

WHEREAS, implementation of the National Plan should begin immediately to prevent further introduction and to stop the spread of Asian Carps into uninvaded waters throughout the United States (Conover et al. 2007) and;

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for implementation of those strategies and recommendations in the National Plan is approximately \$286,000,000 over 20 years, and;

WHEREAS, the 13 federal agency members of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force have not received federal appropriations or begun to implement the National Plan since it was approved for implementation in 2007 and;

WHEREAS, Congress established the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act; Section 1201) with authority to develop and implement programs to prevent, monitor, and control introductions of aquatic nuisance species in waters of the United States (NANPCA; Section 1202),

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year 2013 at Nashville, Tennessee urges the Congress of the United States to appropriate \$286,000,000 over 20 years to fully implement all the strategies and recommendations contained in the *Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States* as approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 2007.

### Literature Citations

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## **2012 SDAFS Spring Meeting: Summary and Minutes**

The Southern Division had a VERY successful meeting at the IP Casino, Resort and Spa in Biloxi, MS from 26-29 January. Those who were unable to attend missed a great gathering! This was one of the biggest meetings on record, with 437 registered attendees, including 132 students. The host chapter (Mississippi) did an outstanding job of fundraising for the meeting, with \$58,397 in donations. Between the excellent fundraising efforts and the large turn-out, the Spring Meeting made a total profit of \$28,729!!

Special guests from national AFS attending the Spring meeting included Gus Rassam (Executive Director) and Bill Fisher (AFS President). Other invited guests included the three theme speakers, who addressed freshwater and marine aspects of the meeting theme "Fisheries in Recovery?": Donny Lowery (Tennessee Valley Authority), who spoke on "Kingston coal ash spill effects on the Emory River and Watts Bar Reservoir Fishery"; Karen Harrington (US Fish and Wildlife Service), who spoke on "Crossing the saltwater interface: management of sturgeons in the southeast" and Martin O'Connell (University of New Orleans), who spoke on "Disasters, resilience, and long-term change: a decade of assessing nekton community dynamics in the Pontchartrain estuary".

The Spring Meeting featured three symposia (Life History Characteristics of Elasmobranch Fishes from the North Western Atlantic Ocean, Habitat Conservation in the Southern Division, and An Out of Channel Experience: The Importance of Floodplain Form and Function to Southeastern Fisheries) and 14 contributed oral sessions during the Saturday and Sunday technical sessions. Seven technical committee meetings were held on Thursday, and there were six workshops on Friday, as well as the student paper competition, the SDAFS business

meeting, and the poster session featuring 30 poster presentations. Twenty-eight sponsors had exhibits in the exhibit hall, which was also the site of a fantastic social on Friday evening. The Saturday night banquet, held at Treasure Oaks Country Club in Ocean Springs, featured unlimited food and drink and a lively raffle.

Several individuals should be recognized for the success of the Spring meeting: Mark Peterson (General Chair), Kevin Hunt (Program and Registration Chair), Nancy Brown-Peterson (Local Arrangements Chair), Tom Holman (Technical Session and Workshop Chair), Jim Franks and Dennis Riecke (Fundraising Co-Chairs), Jill Hendon (Finances), Peter Allen (AV), Greg Summers (Podcasts) and John Jackson (Student Affairs).

## **Southern Division American Fisheries Society Spring EXCOM Meeting January 26, 2012 Biloxi, Mississippi**

President Steve Lochmann called the EXCOM to order at 5:35 pm. President Lochmann called roll and the following proxies were identified: Florida (Mike Allen), Louisiana (Quenton Fontenot), Oklahoma (Gene Gilliland), Virginia (Bob Greenlee), Virginia Tech (Brian Murphy), Trout Technical (David Deaton). Secretary-Treasurer Liz Osier Moats announced that there was a quorum. President Lochmann introduced and welcomed the AFS Executive Director, Gus Rassam and current AFS President, Bill Fisher. The current SDAFS officers were introduced. SDAFS Past Presidents Jeff Boxrucker, Steve Filipek, Bill Fisher, and Steve McMullin were recognized. President Lochmann then recognized and thanked Mark and Nancy Peterson, the General Meeting and Local Arrangements Chairs.

### **SDAFS President Report**

President Lochmann discussed his activities. The Southern Division is on good financial footing in part because not all of the allocated funds were spent. The Southern Division was well represented at AFS Governing Board Meetings in both Bethesda and the parent AFS meeting in Seattle. Standing and Technical Committees were active and fulfilled their duties. This meeting is one of the best attended with more than 400 attendees despite the national economic situation and travel restrictions. Two SDAFS newsletters were produced in a timely manner. There are a few Technical Committees and Chapters that have not been active, which will be discussed later. At the 2011 Spring Meeting, President Lochmann initiated an effort to ensure all agency biologists have access to AFS journals. He attempted to work with agency fisheries program chiefs and administrators to improve this status, but was not successful, though he will continue to work on it. During the past year, there have been some difficulties keeping the SDAFS website up to date. The Webmaster was having health issues, but will resume his duties in the near future. Chapter and Technical Committee officer and chairmanship updates are needed in a timely manner to help maintain the website. The first President, Jack Dequine, passed away in November at the age of 94. He bequeathed the Southern Division part of his estate to be used in support of communication and publication.

### **SDAFS Officer Reports**

President-Elect Brian Murphy provided his report. The Puerto Rico Chapter will not be moving forward with their organization at this time. The Webmaster position will continue to be filled by Jerry Finke. The agency fisheries program chiefs indicated at the SEAFWA meeting that they would like to have more input on the work and priorities of the Technical Committees. President-Elect Murphy will stay in contact with those Technical Committees about coordinating future efforts. The rosters that were provided to the Technical Committees at their meetings will be useful for staying in contact. President-Elect Murphy requested that they be returned to him. Governing Board has been considering the roll of affiliate members within the Society. These are Chapter members that are not Society members. President-Elect Murphy is also looking into improving communications for Technical Committees. There have been problems recently getting committee members to their meetings due to travel restrictions. He hopes to investigate electronic options, such as conference calls or web conferencing.

An Ad-hoc committee may be developed. The AFS has developed a searchable repository for gray literature called Fishery Reports. It will be available for members to deposit literature such as agency reports and academic theses/dissertations. He intends to work with Chapters to make sure gray literature gets deposited there.

Vice-President Mike Allen reviewed the Pollution Committee. They have had two functions: to update the monetary value of fish and to review fish kills in the Southern Division. The report stands as written.

Secretary-Treasurer Liz Osier Moats' reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2011 Tampa EXCOM Meeting were published in the Winter 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted on the SDAFS website. Hearing no questions or revisions, a motion was made (Osier Moats) and seconded (Murphy) to approve the 2011 EXCOM minutes. Motion was approved.

The 2011 SDAFS financial statement was discussed. The Division started 2011 with \$10,352 and an additional \$6,000 in our strategic reserve fund. Major income sources were received from the Spring Meeting in Tampa (\$5,849.86) and the AFS dues rebate (\$8,232). Typical operating expenses were incurred during the year and briefly discussed. A \$500 donation was made to the AFS-EOS. The majority of the Grants and Donations budget was unused. The Membership Challenge was not awarded in 2011, to allow time to revise the procedure. The Student Affairs Committee was provided \$5,500 for student lodging at SDAFS and SEAFWA Meetings. The Strategic Reserve Fund was maintained (\$6,000). The Southern Division ended the year with \$11,658 in cash. An audit of the 2011 financial information was not completed in time for this meeting, but will be done before the end of the Biloxi meeting. A motion to pass the 2011 financial statement was made by Osier Moats and seconded by Allen. The 2011 financial statement was unanimously approved.

The proposed 2012 SDAFS budget was discussed. Finances for 2012 are dependent on income sources but appear sufficient to operate in 2012 while still leaving enough cash for early 2013 expenditures (prior to the receipt of 2013 income sources). The Division expects a modest return from the Biloxi Meeting. Projected income in 2012 is \$24,826 and expenses are projected at \$20,110 for an end of year balance of \$4,716. The Strategic Reserve Fund will be maintained with \$6,000. After no further discussion, a motion was made (Osier Moats) to pass the 2012 proposed budget and seconded (Olive). The proposed 2012 budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

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

Resolution Committee Chair, Dennis Riecke presented a resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2012 Spring Meeting in Biloxi. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Gilliland and seconded by Fontenot. The proposed resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chair Riecke then presented a resolution on Federal Funding on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. Funding has been stagnant for a number of years. The resolution explains the background of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program and cost of managing aquatic nuisance species. Resolution calls for increased funding for each regional panel, funding directed toward zebra and quagga mussel control and increased funding for each state with an aquatic nuisance species plan. Despite the difficult financial and economic status in the country, this resolution outlines the importance of adequate funding to control aquatic nuisance species. The resolution has been presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2011 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment, though none were received). Motion was made (Abney) to approve for presentation to the membership at the Business Meeting and seconded (Gilliland). The motion was approved.

Finally, Chair Riecke urged officers to consider developing a method for the Southern Division membership to review, consider and debate Division resolutions electronically. This is the method employed by the Parent Society and it allows for consideration and action in a more timely manner. Chapters were also encouraged to consider developing resolutions on issues that are important to them to be brought to the Resolutions Committee

to be considered by the Southern Division membership. Riecke solicited ideas for resolutions from the EXCOM and recommended past resolutions (resource issues only) be archived on the Division website.

Small Impoundments Committee Chair, Wes Neal, reviewed the Small Impoundments Committee textbook project. Dave Willis and Wes Neal served as co-editors. There is currently only one chapter devoted to the management of small impoundments in the AFS North American Fisheries Management book. Few other pond management resources exist for students and managers. The Small Impoundments Committee envisioned a resource with national and continental scope. The book will include the history of pond management, construction techniques and methods as well as fish management, stocking, biological production, problem solving and alternative uses. The book will include 16 chapters. Information sources are from academia, state and federal agencies and the private sector. The intent was to bring pond management to the classroom so that it can be taught anywhere in the country. Project is weeks away from submitting for printing. Publishing costs will be shared with the Parent Society. Committee fundraising goal was \$10,000. Current funds raised were approximately \$6,000.

Archiving Ad hoc Committee, co-chaired by Greg Summers and Jeff Boxrucker, is compiling the history of the Division. They have accumulated materials that are rich in the history of the Division. The materials are being organized in chronological hierarchy by decade, year, and nature of the materials (correspondence, briefing books, meeting minutes, bylaws, newsletters, resolutions, etc.). The funding provided by the Division will finance the scanning and cataloguing of documents. Materials begin two years prior to the formation of the Division. The Ad hoc committee co-chairs request any additional materials. Technical or Standing Committee documents are not being included at this time. President Lochmann thanked Greg and Jeff for their commitment to the project.

Student Affairs Committee Chair, John Jackson, presented a suggestion for the future allocation of the funds that are provided by the Southern Division for the Student Affairs Committee. He provided background of the past expenditures and breakdown of the funds. The funds are used for lodging for students at the Division's Spring Meeting (\$3,000), financial support for the Student Colloquium (\$1,000), financial support for the Student Social at the SEAFWA meeting (\$500) and student lodging at the SEAFWA meeting (\$1,000). Chairman Jackson recommended reconsidering the allocation of funds for the SEAFWA Student Social and student lodging at the SEAFWA meeting. A motion was made (Neal) to reallocate the funds for SEAFWA Student Social and student lodging at the SEAFWA meeting to student lodging at the Southern Division Spring Meeting. The motion was seconded (Lewis). Extensive discussion ensued. The point was made that there is a value to support students at SEAFWA meetings because it offers a broader perspective of natural resource management and agency activities as a whole. It is perceived that the funds provided by the Student Affairs Committee for the SEAFWA Student Social are not necessary or needed because they have not been sought by the host agency in the past. Student lodging available at the Southern Division meeting is often limited due to shortage of funds; additional funds could support more students attending the Southern Division Spring meeting. A motion was made (Lewis) and seconded (Bonvechio) to amend the previous motion to reallocate the funds provided for the SEAFWA Student Social (\$500) to student lodging at the Southern Division Spring Meeting and leave the expenditure of funds for student lodging at the SEAFWA meeting (\$1000) to the discretion of the Student Affairs Committee. President-Elect Murphy noted there is no procedure on Student Affairs Committee expenditures provided in the SDAFS Procedures Manual; the expenditure of funds by the Student Affairs Committee is always at the discretion of the Student Affairs Committee Chair. The vote was called and motion approved with one dissenting vote.

## **Chapter Reports**

**Arkansas** – Report stands as written.

**Auburn University** – Stands as written

**Florida** – Present but, no report.

**Georgia** - Report stands as written.

**Kentucky** - Not present; no report.

**Louisiana** – Report stands as written.

**Mississippi** - Report stands as written.

**North Carolina** - Report stands as written.

**Oklahoma** - Report stands as written.

**South Carolina** - Report stands as written.

**Tennessee** – Report stands as written. The 2013 SDAFS Spring Meeting will be held in Nashville February 7-10.

**Texas** - Report stands as written.

**Tidewater** – Report stands as written.

**Virginia** - Report stands as written.

**Virginia Tech** – Not represented, Report stands as written.

**West Virginia** - Report stands as written.

## Committee Reports

**Technical Committees** - Reports for the Alligator Gar, Aquaculture, Catfish Management, Non-Game Aquatics, Pollution, Reservoir, Small Impoundments, Striped Bass, Trout, and Warm Water Streams committees stood as written in the Briefing Book.

**Audit Committee** - The report was incomplete due to the early timing of this meeting relative to the close of 2011. The audit report will be submitted when all financial information has been thoroughly reviewed. (Following the EXCOM meeting, the Audit Committee reported to President Lochmann on January 28, 2012 that the financial documents were in order.)

**Awards Committee** - Report stands as written. Awards will be distributed at the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow evening.

**Ballot Committee** – Report stands as written.

**Membership Committee** - Report stands as written.

**Nominating Committee** - Report stands as written.

**Student Affairs Committee** – Report stands as written.

**Newsletter Editor** - No report; not represented.

**SEAFWA Proceedings, Fisheries Editor** – No report.

**SEAFWA Directors Liaison** – No report.

## Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business from the 2011 Excom Meeting Minutes that has not been addressed at this meeting.

## New Business

Meeting locations for the 2014 Spring Meeting were discussed. The Chamber of Commerce of Lexington, KY has expressed interest in assisting the Southern Division in hosting the 2014 Spring Meeting. There does not appear to be interest from the Kentucky Chapter to host the meeting. South Carolina Chapter has expressed interest in hosting in 2014. The proxy representative from South Carolina (Bulak) did not have any information to present about the proposal. President Lochmann considers that there is not currently a host for the Southern Division in 2014. The Georgia Chapter President Slaughter said that they were prepared to discuss hosting in 2015 because they were under the assumption that South Carolina was hosting in 2014. Georgia is not able to commit to 2014 at this time. The South Carolina Chapter President is not present, but Osier Moats stated that there had been email correspondence in which a proposal was made by the SC Chapter President and President-Elect. President Lochmann will follow up with SC Chapter.

Student Colloquium is supposed to be hosted in November, but the 2011 host, WVU Student Sub-Unit, decided to hold it at the same time as the NEAFWA meeting in April 2012. Normally the hosts of the Colloquium would select the next hosts (occurring in the fall of the same calendar year of the Spring meeting). Since the Colloquium was not held in November 2011, the 2012 host has not been selected. Student Affairs Committee Chairman Jackson thinks that the Student Colloquium should remain as a fall event due to the long standing occurrence of the Wildlife Conclave in the spring. Either the fall 2012 Colloquium will be skipped or there will be two in one calendar year. Mississippi State and Arkansas Tech Student Sub-Units both mentioned that they may be willing to host in fall 2012.

Jim Bulak brought forward the point that the South Carolina Chapter Report in the Briefing Book states that the SC AFS Executive Committee has submitted a proposal to the SDAFS President to host the 2014 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Charleston, SC. President Lochmann acknowledged receiving the materials from the SC AFS, but felt it was a decision for the SDAFS Executive Committee.

Vice President Allen brought forward a motion to disband the Pollution Technical Committee based on lack of interest and participation. Motion was seconded by Murphy, and passed by unanimous vote. VP Allen further advised that, in the future, the SDAFS President consider reforming the Pollution Technical Committee as an Ad hoc Committee.

Following no further discussion items, a motion to adjourn was made (Rizzuto) and seconded (Rieke) and, hearing unanimous support, President Lochmann adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 7:25 pm.

## **Southern Division AFS Business Meeting Minutes January 27, 2012 Biloxi, Mississippi**

The 2012 SDAFS Business Meeting was called to order at 1721 hrs by President Steve Lochmann. It was determined a quorum was present. President Lochmann recognized the current SDAFS officers; Brian Murphy, President-Elect; Mike Allen, Vice President; Elizabeth Osier Moats, outgoing Secretary-Treasurer; and Craig Bonds, incoming Secretary-Treasurer. It was noted that Craig Bonds would be installed by appointment to fill unexpired term (ending at 2013 business meeting) of departing Secretary-Treasurer Osier Moats. President Lochmann introduced SDAFS Past Presidents: Jeff Boxrucker, Steve Filipek, William (Bill) Fisher, Fred Heitman, Donald C. Jackson, Cecil Jennings, and Steve McMullin. President Lochmann introduced AFS President Bill Fisher and Executive Director Guss Rassam.

**AFS President Bill Fisher's Remarks:** In concert with the AFS mission and 2020 Strategic Plan, he wanted to concentrate on three goals: 1) Global Fisheries Leadership, 2) Continuing Education, and 3) Membership Value. Under goal 1, AFS will hold its annual meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, 19-23 August 2012. A policy statement on the need for an immediate-release fish anesthetic was approved, and a policy statement on lead in sportfish tackle was adopted. For goal 2, President Fisher stated that a coalition of natural resources societies (AFS, The Wildlife Society, Society of American Foresters, and Society for Range Management) held a conference to address mismatches between university curricula and hiring needs. Under goal 3, the Governing Board will address affiliate memberships (Chapter members only). The Parent Society would like to enumerate affiliate members and determine proportion in relation to Society members. Parent Society leaders desire to add affiliate members to the Parent Society database. He concluded by recognizing SDAFS leadership in presentation podcasting and expressed the desire to further enable virtual attendance at the 2012 Parent Society Meeting.

**AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam's Remarks:** AFS cares about its members' welfare and professional development. He provided several notable examples, including recovery from Hurricane Katrina and solidarity with Japan following the tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster. He discussed three talking points. First, the 6<sup>th</sup> World Fisheries Congress will meet this May in Edinburg, Scotland. Second, he updated group on AFS publications and information access issues. The Parent Society publishes six journals, with the online Marine/Coastal journal being the newest addition. He mentioned social media and the open access movement threaten the established journal business model. This area is moving fast, and AFS needs to be ready to address it. AFS will experiment with open access information by allowing members to upload gray literature. Third, the SDAFS stepped up to host the AFS Annual Meeting in 2013. He recognized the value in the volunteer model for meeting planning and execution.

**President Lochmann's Address:** Steve recognized the breadth of knowledge represented by the journals. Taylor Frances put a dollar figure on the value of AFS journals at over \$1M. Steve reported on his "No Biologist Left Behind" initiative. He discovered less than 30% of state agency biologists have free online access to AFS journals through their employer. Lochmann stated he was unsuccessful at persuading more state agencies to provide this valuable literature search service for their professional staff. He also reported on his efforts to encourage fisheries students to follow good scientific methods. Lochmann appointed Wes Porak Chair of the new Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee. Lochmann represented SDAFS at the SEAFWA Conference and at the Parent Society's Governing Board. He reported 2013 and 2014 SDAFS meetings would be held in Nashville, Tennessee, and Charleston, South Carolina, respectively. The 2013 Parent Society Annual Meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Steve closed by stating it was a privilege observing good people doing good work on behalf of the Division.

**Secretary-Treasurer Osier Moats' Report:** Minutes from the 2011 Tampa Business Meeting were published in the Winter 2012 SDAFS Newsletter and in the Briefing Book, as well as posted the SDAFS website. Hearing no call for revision, President Lochmann asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made (Mike Allen) and seconded (Fred Heitman) and the 2011 Business Meeting minutes were approved. Liz presented the 2011 financial statement, covering income and expenses for the year. Fred Heitman noted that the 2011 financial statement was a report and did not require approval. Liz presented the 2012 budget, including expected donations. She explained the Audit Committee would complete their work the following day. Motion was made (Dave Rizzuto) and seconded (Fred Heitman) to approve 2012 budget. Motion passed.

**President-Elect Murphy's Chapter Activity Report:** Reports from the various state chapters and their student subunits, as compiled in the EXCOM Briefing Book, were summarized.

**President Lochmann's Standing Committee Report:** Audit Committee will meet the following day. The Student Affairs Committee did not hold a Student Colloquium in November 2011, because it was moved to coincide with the NEAFWA Conference in April 2012. Committee has yet to determine whether a second event will be held this coming fall in order to return to a more traditional November schedule. We provided 30 students with free rooming at the 2011 Tampa SDAFS meeting and 2 students with free rooms at the Nashville SEAFWA meeting. Pat Mazik represented SDAFS at the SEAFWA meeting and hosted a student workshop on interviewing for jobs. Steve Sammons served as SEAFWA fisheries technical editor. Our Webmaster, Jerry Finke, will return to his role following a brief reprieve due to an illness. Shannon White will continue to lead efforts to fulfill Virginia Tech's commitment to publishing two newsletters in 2012.

**President-Elect Mike Allen's Technical Committee Report:** Mike highlighted a few points. The newly appointed Black Bass Conservation Ad Hoc Committee will hold a special symposium at the 2013 SDAFS meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. A book will be published following the symposium. Mike reported a review of the Pollution Committee was conducted and reported in the Briefing Book. The Division EXCOM voted to disband the committee due to inactivity, but the possibility exists to carry out its duties as an ad hoc committee when the need arises. The Reservoir Committee will be revising their habitat manual and will continue working

with the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. The Small Impoundment Committee will be publishing a small impoundment textbook in 2012. The Striped Bass Committee is nearly complete in publishing their symposium proceedings. They hope to collaborate with the Reservoir Committee on addressing stocking and prey fish evaluation issues. The Trout Committee published a manuscript on depletion methods for trout. Catfish Management Committee, in combination with the North Central Division, completed publication of a proceedings book from the Second International Catfish Symposium. The Catfish Management Committee also hosted a sampling workshop at this Division meeting. The Alligator Gar Committee hosted an International Conference for gar species in 2011 and held a workshop at this Division meeting.

**Resolutions Committee Report:** President Lochmann presented a resolution of appreciation and thanks by acclamation to the Mississippi Chapter. Specifically, he recognized Mark Peterson, General Meeting Chair; Kevin Hunt, Program Chair; and Nancy Brown Peterson, Local Arrangements Chair for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2012 Spring Meeting. Chair Dennis Riecke presented a resolution on Federal Funding on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. Funding has been stagnant for a number of years. The resolution explains the background of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program and cost of managing aquatic nuisance species. Resolution calls for increased funding for each regional panel, funding directed toward zebra and quagga mussel control and increased funding for each state with an aquatic nuisance species plan. Despite the difficult financial and economic status in the country, this resolution outlines the importance of adequate funding to control aquatic nuisance species. The resolution was presented in the appropriate forums (Summer 2011 Newsletter, posted on the website and open to comment, though none were received) and approved by the EXCOM to bring before the membership for consideration. Motion was made (Steve Filipek) to accept the resolution and seconded (Dave Rizzuto). The motion was approved. Motion was made (Fred Heitman) and seconded (Mark Peterson) to forward the resolution to the Parent Society for consideration. Motion was approved.

**Ballot Committee Report:** President Lochmann noted that John Jackson and Tom Holman were the candidates for the position of Vice President in 2011. Melissa Kaintz and Anthony Overton were candidates for the position of SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee in 2011. Through the use of Survey Monkey, e-mail ballots were sent out. Steve noted that Survey Monkey tool is available to all units and committees for facilitating elections. Votes cast in 2011 were 321. Lochmann recognized John Jackson as the new SDAFS Vice President and Anthony Overton as the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee.

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

The SDAFS Outstanding Achievement Award was awarded to Dr. Neil Douglas and will be presented to him on Saturday afternoon during the Floodplain Symposium.

Vice President Mike Allen led a memorial presentation in honor of recently-deceased John F. "Jack" Dequine. Jack was the first president of the Division, and is considered its founding "father". Jack served the Division for nearly 60 years. He was the longest serving fisheries scientist in the state of Florida, serving as mentor for countless professionals. He was influential in first incorporating fisheries papers as part of the SEAFWA Conference Proceedings, later becoming the namesake for its best paper award. Prior to his death at age 94, he arranged for his will to bequeath a substantial sum (undetermined at meeting time) of money to the Southern Division and the Florida Chapter AFS. Jack's service to the Division was uniquely honored by having members stand until their individual service durations were called in multiples of 5 years. A moment of silence was held following the announcement of 60 years of service in honor of Jack.

The 2011 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best paper award went to Patrick O'Rourke and Christopher Martin of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The second place award went to Thomas Reinert (University of Georgia) and Cecil Jennings. Checks for \$100 and \$50 were given to first place and runner up, respectively.

The Outstanding Student Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University.

The Best Student Presentation Award from the 2011 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Tampa went to James H. Roberts (Virginia Tech University). Second place was awarded to Michael W. Waine of the North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The best student poster from the 2011 SDAFS Spring Meeting was awarded to Beverly K. Barnett (University of West Florida).

Two Robert M. Jenkins Scholarships (\$1,000 each) were presented by Kurt Kuklinski of the Reservoir Committee to Ryan Lothrop (Auburn) and Jonah Dagle (Mississippi State University).

The Jimmie Pigg Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award (\$300 and 1-year Parent Society membership) was presented by Paul Balkenbush of the Warmwater Streams Committee to Ms. Laurie Early of Auburn University. Ms. Early was selected for her commitment to student excellence in warmwater streams-related research, education, and professional and public service.

Appreciation plaques were given to Mark Peterson, General Meeting Chair; Kevin Hunt, Program Chair; and Nancy Brown Peterson, Local Arrangements Chair for their efforts to graciously host an entertaining and well-planned 2012 Spring Meeting .

The SDAFS Membership Challenge winner was the North Carolina Chapter with 83% of its members also paying dues to the Parent Society. The winning chapter received a \$250 check and is able to donate another \$250 to an AFS cause of their choosing.

**Old Business:** None.

**Installation of 2012 Officers:** Newly installed officers, Craig Bonds, Secretary-Treasurer; John Jackson, Vice President; Mike Allen, President-Elect; and Brian Murphy, President; were escorted to the head of the room. Steve Lochmann presented the Presidential gavel to Brian Murphy.

**Newly Installed President Murphy's Remarks:** Brian thanked Steve for his guidance during the past year and awarded him a Past President's plaque and a bottle of single-malt scotch. Brian also thanked Liz Osier Moats for her service and awarded her with an outgoing Secretary-Treasurer's plaque. Brian acknowledged his escorts, noting that they book-ended his career from beginning (Dave Terre) to current (Patrick Snellings). His plan of work in 2012 included protecting and strengthening the "Three Cs": 1) Chapters, 2) Committees, and 3) Communication. Strategies included sending a Division officer to every Chapter meeting, implementing mentorship awards for EXCOM (modeled after Parent Society), establishing network for uploading gray literature into online database, enhancing fisheries chiefs' input on committee work, expanding committee participation, further enabling electronic meeting participation, and providing monthly communication contact.

**New Business:** None.

A motion to adjourn was made (Cecil Jennings) and seconded (Fred Heitman) and the meeting concluded at 1914 hrs.

# Chapter Updates

Highlights from the **Arkansas Chapter** Meeting can be found at:

<http://www.sdafs.org/arkafs/AFS/index.html>

Our annual chapter meeting was held in Conway, Arkansas on February 8-10, 2012. There were 141 members in attendance. The Chapter is very busy planning the SEAFWA, Mid-Continent Culture Workshop and International AFS meetings. The 2013 Arkansas Chapter AFS meeting is scheduled for January 23-25 at the Faulkner County Natural Resources Center in Conway.

The 2012 SEAFWA meeting will be held October 7-10<sup>th</sup> in Hot Springs ([www.seafwa.org](http://www.seafwa.org)).



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Hot Springs Convention Center ~ Hot Springs, Arkansas  
<http://www.seafwa.org/conferences/2012/index.html>

The 2013 American Fisheries Society International Meeting (parent society) will be held September 8-12, 2013 in Little Rock.



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**September 8-12, 2013**



**Above: Colton Dennis thanks Joe Stockel for his extended service on the Nominations and Awards Committee.**



**Above: President Lindsey Lewis thanks Past-President Colton Dennis for his service.**



**Above: Colton Dennis presented the best graduate student paper award to Craig Jansen from Arkansas Tech.**

The **Auburn Chapter** of the American Fisheries Society participated in numerous outreach, education, and public service projects over the past 12 months. In December of 2011 student members of the chapter visited Drake Middle School to educate students about aquatic ecology in a fun, hands-on environment. This event was a great success and we look forward to returning in 2012. In the fall of 2011 and spring of 2012, Auburn AFS hosted two international fishing clinics at the North Auburn Fisheries Station. Forty international students from 8 countries attended the events. For most of the students it was their first time going fishing. Thankfully the fish were cooperative, and everybody was able to catch fish and take a few fillets home. We also assisted with the annual Ag Roundup hosted by the College of Agriculture. Student members worked a booth at the event teaching kids to cast and awarded prizes to those who participated.



Community service projects included member participation in 3 stream clean-ups and continuing to pick up trash along the chapter's adopt-a-mile once a year. The chapter established an urban stream restoration project with the local extension program. We have agreed to help supply labor and funding to plant live-stakes of native trees along eroded stream banks in the Auburn area.

In the fall of 2011 Auburn AFS harvested, bagged, and sold 2,890 pounds of shrimp reared by the Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory at Dauphin Island, Alabama. Proceeds from the sale as well as other Auburn AFS merchandise was used to help send 15 student members to professional meetings. Active student members of the chapter qualify for a \$100.00 stipend to help offset the cost of attending meetings. Proceeds were also used to host a spring fishing tournament and social to harvest largemouth bass from some of the more overcrowded ponds on the North Auburn Fisheries Station. Congratulations to Jeff Buckingham for being the Master Harvester of 2012. We also hosted a tailgating social that was attended by student members, faculty, and alumni. Continuing to provide opportunities for our student members to network with faculty and alumni will be a goal for the 2012-2013 school year.

We would like to thank Dr. Ash Bullard for speaking to the chapter about the importance of professional societies, careers, and separating yourself from the rest of the "field". We would also like to thank Ms. Eve Brantley from the Agronomy and Soils department for speaking to us about effective communication and power point presentations. We would like to recognize and congratulate two past officers Ryan Lothrop, treasurer, and Laurie Earley, president, for their outstanding work as graduate students. Ryan received the Robert M. Jenkins Reservoir Research Scholarship awarded by the SDAFS Reservoir Sub Committee and Laurie was awarded the Jimmie Pigg Outstanding Student Achievement Award by the SDAFS Warm Water Streams Committee. Finally I would like to thank our previous president Laurie Earley as well as the previous officers, and chapter members for their vision and hard work to organize and execute a great year of outreach and education. ~ Chris McKee, ACAFS President

The **Florida Chapter** held its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting February 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Florida 4H-Camp in the Ocala National Forest. There were 116 Chapter members in attendance, which included 47 students from eight different universities. Twenty-five of the students applied for and received travel grants from the Chapter, which covered their meeting registration, meals, and lodging. We had great participation, including 60 presentations (19 poster, 41 oral) with students contributing to almost half of the research presented.

This year's symposium was titled "Fish Habitat Use Over Environmental Gradients: Response or Selection". Our keynote speaker, Dr. Ernst Peebles (University of South Florida, College of Marine Science), described a conceptual model that addresses fish habitat use by incorporating performance metrics in addition to abundance, isolating habitat features by using assembled gradients, and identifying processes useful to management by combining multiple hypotheses. Using the FLAFS poster fish and namesake for our newsletter, the Shellcracker, Dr. Peebles demonstrated that although habitat suitability preferences may be commonly assumed by management agencies, organizing multiple hypotheses into a rational conceptual model can elucidate direct ecological trends and resolve correlated environmental conditions. We had a successful symposium and heard presentations on the effects of differing environmental gradients from salinity to oxygen to depth and new methodology to determine fish habitat use from modeling efforts to satellite tags to underwater cameras. The vast amount of information presented should keep us thinking about how to tackle these interrelated factors for some time to come.



In addition to the symposium, a tribute session was organized for our recently departed friend, Jack Dequine, who has been recognized as a founding father of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and a steadfast supporter of the Florida Chapter since its inception. His presence was missed at this year's meeting. During the business meeting on February 22, 2012, we unanimously voted to rename the best student paper award after Jack Dequine and present recipients with a plaque and \$100 check, to recognize Jack's service to our chapter. The inaugural recipient of the "Jack Dequine Best Student Paper Award" was Andrew Barbour (University of Florida) for his presentation titled "Effect of Pulsed Gastric Lavage on Apparent Survival of a Juvenile Fish in a Natural System".

Two students were also presented a plaque and a \$500 check through the Roger Rottmann Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established to recognize outstanding students enrolled in a Florida university or college, who are working toward a graduate degree related to fisheries sciences. The scholarship is in memory of Roger Rottman, one of the first fisheries biologists hired by the State of Florida University System. Recipients of this year's Rottmann Scholarship included Geoffrey H Smith (PhD Candidate, University of Florida) and Chelsey A. Campbell (Masters Student, University of Florida).

We would like to acknowledge Aquatic Eco-Systems, Hach Hydromet, and YSI, who sponsored the meeting and all the individuals and organizations that made donations towards this year's raffle. We would also like to thank Linda Lombardi (Past-Secretary/Treasurer and Past-President) and Kevin Johnson (Past-Newsletter editor) for their many years of service to the Florida Chapter. The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting is scheduled to take place February 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 at the 4-H Camp in the Ocala National Forest. The first call for papers and information about the symposium and registration will be included in the August 2012 issue of the "ShellCracker".



The **Louisiana Chapter** of the American Fisheries Society held our annual meeting on May 17 - 18, 2012 in Baton Rouge, LA. The theme of the 2012 meeting was "Water Use in Louisiana". In today's environment, it is important that we are aware of how water is managed in Louisiana and how it relates to aquatic organisms. As fisheries professionals, we are challenged with the role of recognizing, understanding, and balancing the "demand for water" among humans, aquatic habitats, and organisms. The theme was well represented by our two keynote speakers, Mark Davis from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy and Dennis Riecke from the

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Instream Flow Council. Both speakers gave outstanding presentations that helped raise awareness of local and regional water concerns and the broader issues related to water use and water rights.

We are proud to report that there were 126 registrants and a full meeting schedule that included 25 oral presentations and 12 posters. Twenty-two of the presentations and posters were authored by students. Nine awards were presented to students based on their abstracts, presentations, and posters. The Aquaculture and Fisheries Student Club at LSU hosted a raffle at our social following the first day of talks, where the chapter enjoyed 300 lbs. of succulent, boiled Louisiana crawfish. The students did a fantastic job of soliciting businesses for raffle items and executing a fun raffle!

### Student Awards

#### Abstract

- First Place **Paige E. O'Malley, LSU**; Physiological effects of terrestrial stranding of Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*).
- Second Place **Calvin Fisher, LSU**; Effects of potassium ion concentration on growth, survival, and ion regulation in Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*).
- Third Place **Devon C. Oliver, LSU**; Southeastern blue suckers (*Cycleptus meridionalis*) forgotten, but not lost yet: Low catches and limited range of targeted habitats suggest continued concerns.

#### Poster

- First Place **Brittany D. Schwartzkopf, LSU**; Diet of red snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) on natural hard-bottom banks in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.
- Second Place **Joshua T. Patterson, LSU**; Effects of differential lipid levels in broodfish diets for Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*) spawning in indoor recirculation systems.
- Third Place **Angelle N. Anderson, LSU**; Catching crabs with a cost-efficient concoction.

#### Oral Presentation

- First Place **Jose A. Vazquez, LSU**; Fish assemblage diversity at revetted banks in the Pearl River and the response of these assemblages to 2011 Temple Inland Fish Kill.
- Second Place **Emily E. Rombach, Nicholl's St. Univ.**; Physiological reproductive seasonality of spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*), in the upper Barataria Estuary, Louisiana.

**David T. Camak, Southeastern LA Univ.;** The naked truth: the effects of a low head dam on the population genetic structure of the naked sand darter (*Ammocrypta beanii*) in the Pearl River, Louisiana.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Tim Ruth for serving as President-Elect and President for the past four years, Brac Salyers for serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for the past two years, and Quenton Fontenot for serving as President-Elect, President, and Past-President for the past six years. President-Elect, Melissa Kaintz, has taken over the duty of President, Dr. Mike Kaller was elected as the new President-Elect, and Dr. Chris Green was elected as the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Chapter awards were given out at the 2012 Business Meeting as well. We would like to congratulate and recognize the following Chapter members for their achievements:

President's Special Service Award – Dr. Mike Kaller  
Chapter's Special Achievement Award – Dr. John Hawke  
Meeting Committee Special Service Award – Craig Gothreaux

We would also like to thank Craig Bonds for attending our meeting as a representative of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society.

In response to the 2012 meeting theme and related presentations, the Chapter has formed an Instream Flow Committee. We would like to thank Robby Maxwell for volunteering to serve as the Committee Chair. We look forward to opening up the lines of communication among our members that are involved with related issues.

The Louisiana Chapter would like to announce their recent creation of a Facebook page and invite other SDAFS members to "like us". The page was created in an effort to increase communication among members using social media. In related news, we are also working on a major renovation of our website. We hope to reveal it soon!

We have initiated a scholarship program to help send student members to the Southern Division Spring Meeting each year. We hope that this program will encourage members to participate at the Division level and help students network with professionals across the region.

In aquatic invasive species news, local biologists have observed silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) in rivers draining the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, following the diversion of the Mississippi River into the lake during the 2011 flood. Also, lionfish (*Pterois* sp.) have been observed on artificial reefs in the Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coast.

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

*Larry Hartzog 1946-2012*

*Larry Hartzog passed away on January 24, 2012. We would like to acknowledge Larry's service as a steward of the environment and the many contributions he made to the field of fisheries. Larry was employed with the United States Army Corps of Engineers for many years before moving to the Minerals Management Service in 2006. During his time at the New Orleans District of the USACOE he was an advocate for fishery resources and was known for his active role in fishery conservation associated with the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurrican Project and the water management projects in the Atchafalaya Basin. Not only was Larry a passionate fisheries scientist, he was also a beloved husband, father, and friend. He was also an ardent jazz, food, and beer enthusiast who enjoyed sharing his knowledge of music and beer over one of his homebrews he crafted in his backyard brew house. We will miss him.*

The **Mississippi Chapter** started out 2012 as hosts of the annual Southern Division Spring Meeting at the Imperial Palace Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, MS January 26-29. Details regarding the Spring Meeting are elsewhere in this newsletter, but the Chapter wants to thank the following Chapter members in particular for all their hard work in making this excellent meeting a success: Mark Peterson, General Chair; Kevin Hunt, Program and Registration Chair; Nancy Brown-Peterson, Local Arrangements Chair; Jim Franks and Dennis Reicke, Fundraising Co-Chair; Jill Hendon, Treasurer; Peter Allen, AV and Technical Support; and Tom Holman, Technical Committees and Workshops Chair. In addition, both Mississippi student sub-units (Mississippi State University sub-unit and University of Southern Mississippi sub-unit) provided valuable help and support throughout the meeting, as well as offered a beautifully designed meeting t-shirt for sale. All of our wonderful sponsors played a big role in the success of the meeting, and we thank all of them! The Chapter also thanks all Southern Division members who attended the meeting and helped make it such a big success!

The Mississippi Chapter held their annual meeting immediately following the SDAFS Spring Meeting in January. Three awards were presented for best student presentations by Mississippi Chapter members at the SDAFS meeting. First place: Rebecca Krogman, MSU, "A classification system for large US reservoirs and its relationship with the fishery and fish community"; Second place: Jonathan Fleming, MSU "Patterns of faunal diversity associated with altered macrophyte coverage";

Third place: Michael Sherman, MSU "Pond management approaches and effects on trophic-dynamics". The Mississippi Chapter is grateful for the continued support of the Mississippi branch of the Coastal Conservation Association for providing financial awards to our student presentation winners. Election and instillation of 2012 officers was held; President, Nancy Brown-Peterson, President-Elect, Stephen Brown, and Secretary-Treasurer, Darcie Graham. Many thanks to our immediate past president, Jason Olive and to outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Jill Hendon for their service and enthusiasm.



2012 MSAFS student winners: Winners of the Mississippi Chapter Best Student Presentation awards, January 2012. F.J. Eicke, Mississippi CCA, award sponsor; Rebecca Krogman, first place; Jonathan Fleming, second place; Michael Sherman, third place; Peter Allen, Chair of MSAFS Student Affairs Committee

Chapter members have participated in a number of outreach efforts during the spring in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Outreach events include numerous pond management workshops throughout the state between April and August, three Campfish events for youth in June and July in association with the MS Bass Federation, and assisting over 6,000 youth to catch fish in fishing rodeos.

The Mississippi Chapter congratulates member Garry Lucas for receiving the Mississippi Conservationist of the Year Award from the Mississippi Wildlife Federation this spring. And, congratulations to Jill Hendon and husband Michael on the birth of Elyse Jillian on May 8, 2012!

The student subunits of the Mississippi Chapter have been active this spring. The USM/GCRL subunit began the 2012 year assisting with the Southern Division AFS Meeting. The subunit worked hard behind the scenes and was also able to raise \$2720 through t-shirt sales and raffles. In April, Don Jackson, professor at MSU and past AFS president, was invited to GCRL to speak on river stewardship, his international career and the importance of AFS in professional development. The subunit coordinated with Mississippi CCA and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in May for two Casting for Conservation events along the coast. This summer, the subunit has invited a guest speaker, Bjorn Steinarsson, who will be speaking at GCRL in June. Bjorn Stienarsson is the head of the fisheries advisory section at the Marine Research Institute in Reykjavik, Iceland. Dr. Steinarsson will be giving a brief overview of the institute and focusing on the Icelandic cod fishery and its biology. We are excited to



Jason and Nancy 2012: Jason Olive, outgoing President of the Mississippi Chapter AFS, receives a plaque acknowledging his service from incoming President Nancy Brown-Peterson.

extend invitations to colleges within the Southern Division, and hope to have students and professionals from multiple universities present. The USM subunit recently held elections; new officers are: Kelsey Burns, President; Claire Matten, Vice President; Keith Cuevas, Treasurer and Stephanie Taylor, Secretary. The subunit acknowledges the hard work of outgoing president Zachary Olsen.

The MSU subunit began 2012 by volunteering at the SDAFS Spring Meeting in Biloxi. Seven members of the subunit went on an overnight canoe trip in Hattiesburg during spring break and held a St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale. Subunit members did an annual sampling of Lake Chadwick on the MSU campus; electrofishing resulted in the capture of many bluefish, and gillnets caught three large paddlefish. In April, the subunit held an Earth Day Stream/Roadside Cleanup, resulting in one truckbed full of trash. Most recently, the subunit held a two day Conflict Management Workshop; Mike Fraidenburg of the Cooperation Company facilitated the workshop that was attended by 13 subunit members

as well as four undergraduates and two wildlife graduate students. The workshop included a fish fry lunch of catfish captured during the subunit fall seining; lunch was open to the entire Wildlife and Fisheries Department and was a great hit. The MSU subunit recently held elections; new officers are: Caroline Andrews, President; Dan Goetz, Vice President; Heather Stewart, Secretary; Jared Porter, Treasurer. The subunit acknowledges the hard work of outgoing president Rebecca Krogman.

The **Tennessee Chapter** of AFS held its annual meeting March 13-14, 2012 at Fall Creek Falls State Park in Pikeville, TN. Approximately 80 members and guests enjoyed 17 technical presentations. Both a live and silent auction was held and brought over \$2,000 in proceeds for use at youth fishing events across the state.

Best Student Paper was awarded to Ms. Kathryn Potoka (Tennessee Technological University) - "An occupancy modeling approach to assess the status and distribution of the endangered Boulder darter (*Etheostoma wapiti*) in the Elk River, Tennessee"



At the awards banquet the following awards were presented:

Friends of Fisheries awards were given to Mr. Mike Chase and Mr. Paul Davis.

Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Mr. Rick Bivens.

New officers elected at the Chapter Business Meeting were Jim Parham as President-elect and Joyce Coombs as Secretary-Treasury.

The Student Subunits of the Tennessee Chapter have had a busy this spring. Members of the Tennessee Technological University (TTU) Student Subunit hosted their 24<sup>th</sup> annual Kid's Fishing Derby which had 130 kids participating. Members from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville (UTK) Student subunit have been working/volunteering at the Cherokee National Forest on projects such as fish sampling, and aquatic habitat improvements.

The Tennessee Chapter is hard at work preparing for the 2013 Southern Division meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Nashville, TN. We hope you all are making plans to join us there in February. For more details, see the special section in this newsletter or visit the website at: <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2013/default.htm>

~Mike Bramlett, TNAFS President

The **University of Tennessee**, AFS Student Chapter Summer Involvements:

President, Caylor Romines, and Vice President, Jared Chrisp are both holding internships in fisheries throughout the summer. Caylor at the United States Forest Service on the Cherokee National Forest and Jared at the University of Tennessee.

Caylor Romines is currently working on many fisheries projects such as fishery sampling, habitat improvement, fish structure creation and improvement, wetland creation, bog restoration as well as many other Wildlife and Fishery projects.

Jared Chrisp is doing a preliminary assessment of the crayfish populations within tributaries of the Pigeon River. He will also be working heavily with the salamanders and fish populations within the Pigeon River watershed.

As a side project, Justin Wolbert and Jared Chrisp are helping to raise Lake Sturgeon. They have 2000 juvenile sturgeon that we plan to raise until they are able 6 inches in length.

There are also a few students volunteering at the Cherokee National Forest. Other than this, there is not much going on this summer and our next student chapter meeting should be the last Thursday of August.

## **Contributed Articles**

### **A Great LCC Fish Partnership**

#### **Fish Biologists Work with GCPO LCC Staff to Identify Alligator Gar Priority Areas**

"Re-educating people about alligator gar isn't just about taking responsibility for what we've messed up. It's also about whether we have the character to overcome our nature for overcoming nature . . ."

Mark Spitzer, from Season of the Gar

"The Alligator Gar is a toothy, slimy, scaly fish, and I think they're the coolest thing in the water!" says Dr. Allyse Ferrara, gar biologist at Nicholls State University in Louisiana. Ricky Campbell, fisheries biologist at Private John Allen National Fish Hatchery in Mississippi, says, "The gar is a real docile animal, more docile than its appearance." Recently ranked by the public as one of the 150 ugliest animals on the planet, the Alligator Gar has long been misunderstood.

#### **From Trash Fish to Apex Predator**

Historic records show Alligator Gar - which can live 30 to 50 years - grow to 10 feet. A large gar weighs in at over 200 pounds, has fierce teeth, and scales of bony armor. Long a victim of "whack and stack" predator eradication programs, the Alligator Gar was said to eat up to twice its weight each day and to dine solely on prized game fish such as Largemouth Bass. "Growing up as a child, I would snap the snouts off of any gar I caught and throw

them back in,” says Lee Holt, fisheries biologist with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. “We always thought gar were not good for anything and did not know any different.”

Radio telemetry and food preference research conducted by the [Alligator Gar Technical Committee](#) over the past decade has helped correct this mistaken view of the gar and begun to shed light on the vital role that Alligator Gar play in the ecosystem. According to Holt, “Only one species is big enough to potentially help us control the invasive Silver and Bighead Carp: the Alligator Gar.” The gar even seems to prefer schooling fish like the carp. Ferrara explains, “Carp and tilapia populations are highly fecund and have gone crazy. Carp tear up spawning beds of other fishes, compete for food, and can tear up commercial fishing gear. We need large predators to consume them.”

## **A Perfect Focal Species for the Lower Mississippi River**

Alligator Gar in many ways are a perfect focal or indicator species for the Lower Mississippi River ecosystem. One of the largest freshwater fishes in U.S. waters, alligator gar are dependent upon unobstructed tributaries, and active shallow water floodplains to spawn from April through June. As a result Alligator Gar are declining throughout much of their former range, and are considered extirpated or extremely rare in six of the 14 states they once inhabited.

Though much is unknown about the species, its decline is likely linked to the familiar list of ills affecting the Lower Mississippi: fragmentation of river-floodplain corridors, impoundments, channelization, wetland loss, and urbanization. Yet this close linkage to seminal issues within the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks geography also offers fertile ground for intense collaboration.

## **Special Nets, Spawning, Staging and Floods**

The Technical Committee, working through the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, is considering ideas and techniques to better manage the Alligator Gar. A definitive plan, however, requires far more detailed information about the gar itself and what lies hidden beneath the murky surface of the region’s rivers. In other words, what kind of habitat does the Alligator Gar prefer?

To answer that question requires catching some spawning gar, and everyone agrees that Ricky Campbell is the go-to guy for doing just that. The specialized gill net used to catch the big fish even bears his name, from the time he spent working with [Miller Net Company](#) to create a no-bycatch net strong enough to hold a thrashing gar.

“We have a large self-sustaining population on [St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge](#) in Natchez, Mississippi,” says Campbell. “For two years Glenn Constant and other fishery biologists with the USFWS Baton Rouge Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office have been getting telemetry data from fish with transmitters, and we’ve seen where they go and how they interact with the rising river during flood events. We’ve found that they like coming back to St. Catherine Creek. They stage in one part of the refuge and move to another part and hold there. One area, the ‘Blue Hole,’ is no more than three to four acres but real deep. They go into that hole and stage before spawning.”

## **Leveraging Technology to See the World through a Fish’s Eye**

The Alligator Gar Technical Committee is an enthusiastic partner of the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC. Holt says, “The LCC can help us better study and design conservation for the Alligator Gar.” Initially, the research team worked with John Tirpak, the LCC Science Coordination, to develop an alligator gar habitat model, and they realized some pieces were missing: the depth and duration of the waters that attract gar as well as their temperature during spring spawning. Spawning habitats appear to be most limiting to the gar. They

then succeeded in obtaining a grant from the FWS Refuge Inventory & Monitoring program to do an analysis of Landsat imagery and LiDAR data (LiDAR, or Light Detection And Ranging, is a remote sensing technology that uses laser light to produce extremely fine-scaled and high resolution depictions of elevation and bathymetry). The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership stepped up to fund the in-situ data loggers that have been placed around the refuge to collect temperature information in-stream as well as in areas that are expected to flood.

Glenn Constant is the fisheries biologist at the US Fish and Wildlife Service office in Baton Rouge leading this project. He explains that to “see under the water,” they need all three forms of data: LiDAR, Landsat satellite imagery, and water quality information from instream data loggers. “Satellite imagery can tell you a lot about habitats on land,” explains Constant. “But for fish like the gar that depend on shallow floodplain habitats, a few inches of depth here and there can make a big difference. Unfortunately, we can’t get that from satellite imagery, but we can get it from LiDAR. When we link those two types of data with measurements of temperature and turbidity, we can start to get a real feel for what habitats the alligator gar prefers.”

The good thing about the LCC,” exclaims Campbell, “is all these projects can be bundled together and put into a super huge database of information that informs everyone.” Working through the GCPOLCC’s Alligator Gar Working Group, state and federal biologists have come together to develop a spatial model for all Alligator Gar habitat on St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

### **The GCPO LCC Role: Modeling and More**

“The LCC is helping us to develop an updated map of where the fish are now, and just as important, where the best areas for reintroduction are located,” says Holt. “The St. Catherine Creek spatial model will help us to identify other areas suitable for restoration work throughout the floodplain, since the LCC Science Coordinator, John Tirpak - working with the Army Corps and other partners - also has bathymetry data in addition to LiDAR,” says Holt. “In effect, we’ll be looking underwater at the entire basin, viewing the habitat with a fish’s eye.”

In addition, St. Catherine Creek manages moist soil units for waterfowl, and these are the same areas that often flood. When alligator gar lay their eggs, they hatch within 72 hours. The hope is that this study will show managers how to benefit both waterfowl and gar by maintaining the appropriate duration and levels of water on the refuge.

“The Technical Committee serves as a platform for our constituents, and by sharing data we can piggyback on the mapping and GIS resources and modeling expertise of the LCC, including a study with the Army Corps of Engineers that is assessing the effects of dike notching along the lower Mississippi River too.” In the past, perpendicular dikes were built into the river to promote scouring that would maintain the depth of the mainstem channel. However, these dikes can also slow down water flowing into the river, filling secondary channels. Notching dikes helps recreate secondary channels that have been lost from these past engineering approaches. These secondary channels are used by gar as well as other high priority species like pallid sturgeon, fat pocketbook mussels, and least terns (look for a story on this project in a future newsletter).

“Our conservation vision is to partner with the LCC to create an Alligator Gar aquatic species model, akin to similar models produced to guide reforestation for migratory birds and the Louisiana Black Bear corridor. Our researchers and partners have a big mosaic of different pieces of the puzzle that we need to start putting together, and the LCC is helping to guide us. The LCC is one of the attachment points for all this other information and a means of injecting it into what others are doing.”

### **A Fighting Chance**

While some states are trying to bring back Alligator Gar, and others are motivated to protect the small populations they still have, both Louisiana and Texas still harbor sizable gar populations. The Texas Parks and

Wildlife Department's goal is to "study and manage Texas Alligator Gar populations to sustain excellent fishing opportunities for this species for present and future generations to enjoy."

A record-breaking 327-lb gar harvested in Lake Chotard, Mississippi in early 2011 is evidence that large gar are still swimming in many Lower Mississippi waters. Improvements in habitat and restoration of populations offer anglers hope that they can continue to challenge that record. But the greater hope is that this huge fish will continue to put up a great fight, not only for the sport fisherman, but for the survival of its kind and the South's iconic bottomlands - so crucial for gar reproduction.

Sources, in addition to interviews

David L. Buckmeier. 2008. "[Life History and Status of Alligator Gar \*Atractosteus spatula\*, with Recommendations for Management.](#)" Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division. Accessed 9/23/2011.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Aug. 11, 2011. [News Release: Alligator Gar Research in Texas Helps Protect Trophy Fishery.](#) Accessed 9/25/2011.

Daily Mail Report, Mail Online. [Record-breaking alligator gar caught in Mississippi.](#) Feb. 2011, Accessed 9/25/2011.

### **Conserving Shoal Bass In Georgia and Alabama**

Lindsay Gardner, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP)

Dr. Steven Sammons, Auburn University

Native shoal bass in Georgia and Alabama, one of the eight described black bass species in the United States, are facing serious threats to their habitats and the integrity of the species. Dr. Steve Sammons of the Fisheries Department at Auburn University, who has studied shoal bass populations extensively, calls this situation "a war of attrition", with numbers of shoal bass populations threatened by a variety of factors, including dams and flow alterations, land use changes, and competition from illegal introductions of black bass not native to the range of the shoal bass. Further evaluation of the life history of shoal bass, including habitat requirements and availability of and competition for food sources, is critical to developing a conservation strategy that will prevent further extirpation (elimination from its former range) of populations.

Shoal bass are endemic to the Apalachicola Basin and are considered fluvial specialists, meaning they require rivers and streams to survive. They are typically found in rocky habitats with strong current, referred to as "shoals", and do not withstand impoundment. Harold Hurst was probably one of the first biologists to study shoal bass in the Chattahoochee River tributary streams in Alabama, during his Master's work at Auburn University in the late 1960s. Forty years later, a team of researchers, led first by Dr. Mike Maceina and currently by Dr. Steve Sammons, returned to these streams to see how shoal bass were faring. What they found was a shocking wake-up call. While populations of native shoal bass and largemouth bass, along with non-native spotted bass were still distributed throughout the mainstem of the Chattahoochee River, there had been marked shifts in the types of black bass found in some of the smaller creeks, with notable declines in the numbers of shoal bass. Shoal bass had been virtually eliminated from three of the four streams in Alabama that had historically had these fish and were replaced by non-native spotted bass. In the last remaining population found in the state, located in a 600 meter stretch of shoal habitat at Moffits Mill on Little Uchee Creek, there was an 80% reduction in the estimated population of shoal bass from 2005 to 2007, mostly due to persistent drought

conditions that almost completely desiccated the creek. Currently, there are likely fewer than 100 adult shoal bass found in Alabama.

Several key factors have contributed to shoal bass population declines and have likely benefitted spotted bass, the shoal bass's main competitor for food and habitat. Dams along the Chattahoochee create impoundments and restrict movement among main-channel habitats and between tributaries and main channel habitats. Dr. Sammons and his team recently completed a one-year telemetry study in a shoal bass population below a low head dam in the headwaters of Bartletts Ferry Reservoir. Results from this study demonstrated that shoal bass movement was not only restricted upstream by the dam, but also downstream by the reservoir. No fish during the nine-month study were found below the area where noticeable flow ceased and reservoir conditions began, despite the fact that multiple streams that formerly had shoal bass populations flowed into the reservoir. This restricted movement has the potential to isolate populations and potentially affect gene flow. Also,

work by Dr. Sammons on the undammed portion of the Flint River in Georgia, has revealed that shoal bass typically make long migrations upstream and downstream to preferred spawning shoals. Thus the series of dams on the Chattahoochee River has broken up the formerly large meta-population of shoal bass into an unconnected group of isolated populations. Also, because shoal bass will not move into reservoir habitats, they have eliminated a drought refugia for these fishes. Both of these factors make these populations more vulnerable to local extinctions, as has occurred in the Alabama tributary streams. Similarly, land use changes, associated with development, especially in Alabama, have taken a toll on shoal bass populations. However, spotted bass may not have been adversely impacted by all of these alterations in habitat, as they are an adaptable species that can be found in small creeks, larger rivers, or in reservoirs. Furthermore, spotted bass pose a genetic threat to the remaining shoal bass populations, as hybrids and genetic mixing of spotted bass and both shoal bass and largemouth bass have been found throughout the Apalachicola Basin. Spotted bass have been illegally introduced into almost every drainage in Georgia, except areas in the extreme southeast and southwest. The long-term genetic effects of these introductions on the native black bass communities are unknown.

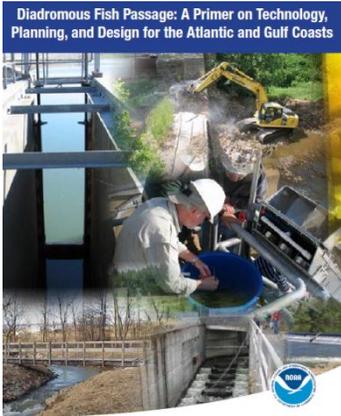
AU's work is part of a SARP-supported Native Black Bass Initiative, which has been accepted by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as a Keystone Initiative. This initiative was intended to promote and fund efforts to conserve native black bass and their riverine habitats throughout the Southeast. Other key partners include Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Georgia Power Company, GeorgiaRiverFishing.com, the Flint Riverkeeper organization, the Chattahoochee RiverWarden organization, and the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn University. It is hoped that the data collected on shoal bass will help fisheries biologists, conservationists and recreational anglers put measures in place that will help the shoal bass populations of Georgia, Alabama, and potentially beyond, to not only survive, but thrive.

For more information about shoal bass and the Native Black Bass Initiative, contact Dr. Steven Sammons, at [sammomsm@auburn.edu](mailto:sammomsm@auburn.edu) or by phone at (334) 844-4159.



Shoal Bass shocking on Moffits Mill. (photo courtesy of Dr. Steven Sammons)

## Announcements



**Diadromous Fish Passage: A Primer on Technology, Planning, and Design for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts** is now available at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/hcd/docs/FishPassagePrimer.pdf>. This document, which represents the collaborative efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast and Northeast Regions, the United States Geologic Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reports on the existing fish passage technology with the goal of informing future projects and technologies.

Dr. **Brian Irwin** has joined the GA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit as the new Asst. Leader-Fisheries. Brian comes to the GA Unity from the Quantitative Fisheries Center at Michigan State University.



Conversations should be two-way. That’s what the **South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative** (SALCC) believes, and that’s why we initiated our new “Third Thursday Web Forum” series this past April. This is our newest way to not only share information from the SALCC with our partners and collaborators, but also to generate a dialogue and get input about what we’re doing and how it’s being done.

Each month on the third Thursday at 10am Eastern time we will host a web forum that all are invited to attend. Every forum will have the same agenda - 10 min of updates, 20 min of mission-relevant presentation and 30 min of questions/discussion. During the questions/discussion block of time the discussion will first be focused on the presentation. The remaining time will be open discussion - anyone can ask any question about the SALCC.

For more information on how to join, or to see a list of upcoming topics and past presentations, click [here](#).

This is a great opportunity to find out what is going on and how your SALCC works. Feel free to share this information and invite others. If you have any questions, please contact [Ginger Deason](#). We hope you’ll be a part of the next conversation!