

# Southern Division News



Southern  
Division of the American  
Fisheries Society



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Read about the candidates for this year's SDAFS election!		Get the details on upcoming professional meetings.		Saw Search 2017: Read about an ongoing project on Sawfish genetics!	

## The President's Message

Wes Porak, SDAFS President

### Thoughts about our Fisheries Profession and Mentorship:

I set a goal to promote mentorship this year, so this is a start. Many of us became fisheries scientists or managers because we love fishing, fish, and/or spending time outdoors. What an incredible opportunity we have to get paid to do what we enjoy doing! I have had the good fortune to work on ponds, lakes, mountain streams, large rivers, reservoirs, and the Everglades, Great Lakes, and Gulf of Mexico. I enjoyed my first day of field work as an undergraduate student and I still enjoy do-

ing field work today.

Over the first few years of my career, I came to realize that completing a research project from the initial step of drafting a proposal to a final report or publication was as much fun as the field work. Although research projects don't always

Above: FWC biologists sort through a seine at Deep Creek, Florida in search of Southern Tessellated Darters (*Etheostoma olmstedii maculaceps*)

(Continued on page 2)



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

### Questions/Comments:

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## (President's Message Continued)

turn out as expected, there are times when we complete a study and learn something about fisheries science that nobody ever knew before. How cool is that?

As fisheries professionals, we all have the responsibility to share our scientific results. I discovered that attending meetings not only provided the opportunity to present my research or management results, but also allowed me to meet new people that lived in other states, had different cultural backgrounds, and worked for different agencies, universities, or private companies. I have told coworkers multiple times over the years that one of the most enjoyable aspects of our jobs is the many interesting and colorful personalities that we meet along the way.

So, the field work is usually fun, the scientific discoveries are always exciting, and the people we meet in our profession are often very interesting. But, the most rewarding part of my career - 'hands down' - has been sharing knowledge gained from my experiences with students and younger colleagues when they can learn or benefit from them.

Mentoring comes in many forms. Mentor/Student lunches are planned at every Southern Division meeting. I strongly encourage every professional AFS member to attend this lunch, because after the lunch is over, you will probably feel that you benefited more from the

experience than the student. At lunch, you get to spend time with a student that is super excited about getting into fisheries science and have the opportunity to provide meaningful information that might help launch his or her career.

Talks presented to student groups is another excellent opportunity for mentorship. Many young students, particularly in urban environments, do not have a clue that there are jobs in which a person can raise catfish at a hatchery, sample bass by electrofishing, or plant bulrush to enhance fish habitat. I had at least one coworker that decided to become a fisheries scientist at a young age after he learned about natural resource careers during a school program. We are always busy at work, but you should occasionally try to make time to interact with students.

Mentoring is sharing what we have learned through our own professional experiences with coworkers and colleagues. Each of us can certainly remember a few of our own mentors that had a profound impact on our professional development in the early stages of our careers. There comes a time when



SDAFS President Wes Porak presents Immediate Past-President Dave Coughlan with the Presidential Service Award at the 2017 SDAFS annual meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

we unselfishly need to give back to the profession by mentoring younger colleagues. It can be very rewarding when you take time out of your busy schedule to assist a young professional or a student.

Then there is mentoring that we do every day in the work place (whether we realize it or not), because we influence people around us continuously with our demeanor and our behavior. We can't change our personalities, but we do have control over our attitudes, our passion for fisheries science, and our work ethic. These attributes are 'contagious' in the work place!

Think about how your mentors helped you along your journey as a young fisheries scientist or manager. Then, figure out how you can give back to our profession by mentoring a younger biologist or a student.

# Candidate Biographies

## Vice President



**Vic DiCenzo**

**Background** — Since July 2016, Vic DiCenzo has served as a fisheries biologist with Solitude Lake Management. Prior to his employment with Solitude, Vic spent 4 years at Virginia Tech as an Instructor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation teaching Fisheries Techniques, Fisheries Management, and Human Dimensions of Fish and Wildlife. While at Virginia Tech, Vic earned his Ph.D. studying the human dimensions of stocked trout anglers in Virginia. Before beginning his Ph.D., Vic served as a research associate (2 years, Auburn University), fisheries biologist (15 years, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries), and district fisheries supervisor (2 years, Texas Parks and Wildlife). Vic earned his MS from Tennessee Tech and his BS from Virginia Tech. Vic's professional background

working with state agencies, academia, and the private sector has given him a broad view of fisheries science, especially in the Southern Division.

**Professional Activities** — Vic has served at various levels within the American Fisheries Society (AFS). He has been a long-time member of AFS as well as the Fisheries Management Section. Vic served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Division from 2003-2005 and as Chair of the Reservoir Committee. A charter member of the Virginia Chapter, Vic recently served as President as well as being a member of a variety of committees. Finally, Vic has led continuing education workshops on human dimensions, population dynamics, and quantitative skills at both Virginia Chapter and Southern Division meetings.

**Vision** — Vic's vision for the Southern Division includes continued support for student involvement and development at all levels of AFS, working with technical committees and Chapters, and being engaged in fisheries issues within the Southern Division. The Southern Division's support of both undergraduate and graduate students is unparalleled and Vic will seek new ways to increase benefits to students. The technical committees and Chapters of the Southern Division are where much of the work gets done – enhanced communication and support will enable

this to continue. Finally, numerous issues threaten aquatic resources throughout the region. Therefore, the Southern Division must remain engaged in these issues using the technical expertise of its members.

Vic is passionate about fisheries resources and service to the Southern Division. It would be an honor to serve the members of the Southern Division as an EXCOM member.

## 2017 SDAFS Elections

Follow the link below to cast your vote for Vice President and Student Representative to the SDAFS Executive Committee. Elected candidates will take office at the 2018 SDAFS Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico and serve until the 2019 SDAFS Meeting in Galveston, Texas. Biographies of all candidates are provided on pages 3-7.

**Voting closes August 1st at 11:59 PM.** Note: you must have paid your 2017 AFS member dues to be eligible to vote.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SDAFS>





### Tom Kwak

**Background** — I have served students, agencies, and science as the Leader of the NC Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Professor of Applied Ecology at NC State University for the last 19 years. The road to this position was winding and lucky, beginning as a kid raised on my family's fish camp on the Kankakee River, IL — working, paddling, boating, fishing, and playing in the river and its floodplain. This aquatic early life stage sent me toward the University of IL, where I earned BS and MS degrees in Ecology, with fisheries work and mentorship at the IL Natural History Survey. I earned my doctorate degree in 1993 at University of MN in Fisheries, studying the productive trout streams in SE MN.

My first faculty position was at San Diego State University, as a Research Assistant Professor, fol-

lowed by the Assistant Unit Leader and Associate Professor at the AR Coop Unit at University of AR. But I landed my ultimate dream job as the Leader of the NC Coop Unit at NC State University in 1999, and continued to pursue my scientific goals of researching flowing water fisheries to enhance their conservation and management — all the while seeking to make a lasting contribution by changing the lives and careers of students and young scientists through teaching and mentorship.

**Professional Activities** — The American Fisheries Society is my home and family for over 30 years, and I strive to be a good member — giving back as much as I've gained. I have broad exposure as a member and officer of 4 chapters and 3 divisions, including President of the NC Chapter and President of the Education Section of the parent society. I've chaired 10 AFS Committees, including Nominations, Awards, and Oversight and served as member of 14 more. I served as Program Chair for AFS meetings at state, division, and parent society levels, including the *2018 SDAFS Meeting in San Juan, PR* — see you there! And I participate in numerous agency, academic, and multi-institution councils, task forces, and committees.

I've served as major advisor for 30 graduate students, and mentored an army of talented young scientists. Together, we've published over 90 journal articles and book chapters and have been rec-

ognized with 21 Best Presentation Awards at scientific society meetings. I've personally been honored with 20 additional society and agency awards and recognitions for service and scientific accomplishments.

**Vision** — The "Bubba Division" is my home and arguably the most active and effective in the AFS. I have a deep appreciation for our members, their science, and our human and natural resources, and thus, my vision for the Division focuses on three goals. (1) Enhance the number, diversity, and quality of our members through support and encouragement. (2) Strengthen the ability for our members to communicate our science with each other and others that may apply it. (3) Stand up for our science and resources to ensure that our expertise, knowledge, and products are relevant in natural resource policy decisions. We are all keenly aware that our Nation is politically divided, and these are among the most challenging times that we've faced as fisheries professionals. If you honor me with this important post, I can promise you that I will fight with all my strength and ability to ensure that our science is considered a priority and applied to protect, conserve, and sustain our fisheries and aquatic resources for the broader society and future generations!

## Student Representative



**Lauren Halbert**

My name is Lauren Halbert, and I am a Walnut Springs, Texas native. I grew up working and playing on the land, spending any free time fishing. This helped me to gain a respect and develop a passion for the outdoors, and more specifically, our aquatic resources. I am currently a junior at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, where I recently became the first Fisheries Science major. This past semester, I led a team of students in establishing an AFS subunit on campus, and will be serving as the subunit president for the 2017-2018 school year. I attended the Texas Chapter and SDAFS meetings this year and would really like to be more involved in the years to come. Serving as the Student Representative to the SDAFS EXCOM would allow me to do just that. I am passionate about AFS and know that I can be a valuable



**Kyler Hecke**

I am originally from Hot Springs, Arkansas. I received my bachelor's degree in Biology with a concentration in Ecology and Organismal Biology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). My involvement with American Fisheries Society (AFS) began during my years as an undergrad, when I joined AFS in 2012. When I was at UALR, the school did not have an AFS student subunit, but some fellow classmates and I began the steps to get a student subunit started at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. We became the founding members of the UALR student subunit and it is assuring to know that the subunit is still going strong with its involvement in AFS today. While an undergraduate student, I was able to attend my first AFS National Meeting (Little Rock, 2013) and my first Arkansas AFS (ARAFS) Chapter Meeting. I had the grand opportunity of volunteering

at my first national conference, which was a blast.

I just recently finished my master's in Aquaculture and Fisheries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), where I was under the advisement of Dr. Steve Lochmann and my master's thesis research was on the, "Distribution and Status of the Strawberry Darter in the Main Stem and Tributaries of the Strawberry River Drainage". My involvement with AFS really took off once I started my master's at UAPB. I am thankful that I had a major advisor during my master's that was highly involved with AFS. UAPB has a student subunit and I was actively involved with the student subunit during my time as a master's student. During my three years as a member, I held the secretary, vice-president, and president officer positions. I was grateful to be awarded the UAPB Student Subunit Outstanding Member award one year during my time with the subunit. I was able to attend my first two SDAFS Meetings (Savannah, 2014 and Oklahoma City, 2017), where I volunteered at both of these meetings and gave oral presentations on some of my master's research. I was actively involved in the ARAFS Chapter meetings during my time as a master's student. I had the opportunity to serve as a student member on the AFS Profit, and State Fish ad hoc committees for the ARAFS Chapter. I volunteered at each of the ARAFS Chapter meetings I attended, where I mod-

(Hecke Biography Continued)

erated sessions and judged professional oral-presentations. During the 2017 ARAFS Chapter meeting, I was able to organize a student social for members of all of the student subunits in Arkansas to gather for fellowship. I was also able to attend the AFS National meeting in Kansas City (2017) during my time as a master's student, where I was awarded the Skinner Memorial Award, which helped me attend this meeting and I am grateful. I also volunteered and orally presented the findings of my thesis research during this national meeting.

I am now preparing to start the Natural Resource Management-PhD program at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK) in the fall of 2017, where I will be under the advisement of Dr. Brian Alford and my dissertation research will focus on fish community changes in relation to material production activities in the Clinch River Basin.

During my time as an AFS member, I have been able to develop friendships and professional relationships that will last forever and have benefited greatly from this society as a student. As I prepare to start the next chapter of my life at UTK, I do so with high hopes of continuing my involvement with AFS. I feel that I possess the desire and dedication to be an outstanding representative for students on the SDAFS EXCOM. Thank you for the consideration.



### Christopher Pickens

Christopher Pickens graduated from Oberlin College in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Geology. While attending Oberlin College, he participated in several research projects. Under the mentorship of Dr. Dennis Hubbard (Oberlin College, Geology), he examined fossil reef organisms to understand reef declines in the Caribbean. While studying abroad in Australia, he worked with Dr. Justin Welsh (James Cook University) to monitor changes in herbivorous reef fish behavior on the Great Barrier Reef in response to induced macroalgal phase shifts. Lastly, as a NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholar, he interned at the Kasitsna Bay Lab in Alaska where he helped kick-start their phytoplankton monitoring program and began correlating primary productivity fluctuations with physical oceanographic conditions. Aside from research, Pickens worked for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Teen Conservation Leaders and Seafood Watch Program, which seek to de-

velop the ocean conservation leaders of tomorrow and promote sustainable seafood.

Following his graduation from Oberlin College, Pickens pursued his passion for marine conservation and stewardship by becoming a commissioned officer in the NOAA Corps. As a NOAA Corps officer, he was assigned to the NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster* where he helped facilitate projects that promote NOAA's missions of resilient coastal communities and healthy oceans in the North Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. In April 2017, Pickens resigned from the NOAA Corps to pursue a graduate degree in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston, starting in the Fall 2017. For his graduate research, he will be working with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' (SCDNR) Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction (MARMAP) program, with the intent of using statistical modeling to show spatial and temporal patterns of fish species commercially important to the US Southeast Fisheries and assessing how these distribution patterns are influenced by abiotic and biotic factors.

In his spare time, Pickens enjoys being outdoors or participating in any activity that gets him in the water. Recently, he took up the sport of stand up paddle boarding and has really enjoyed exploring the inlets of Charleston Harbor and neighboring Islands.





### Tyler Steube

I am originally from Columbus Ohio and received my BS in Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology from The Ohio State University in 2013. While an undergraduate, I was involved in research on the effects of climate on life history traits of Lake Erie yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*) conducted at the Aquatic Ecology Lab. Following graduation, I was employed by the Ohio Sea Grant and Ohio State University's F.T Stone Laboratory on Gibraltar Island in Lake Erie. Assignments included research on valuable sport fisheries, water quality, and hypoxia. My next employment with a non-profit marine education organization in the Florida Keys. Pigeon Key Foundation operates a small island campus which fosters understanding of fisheries, corals, and the unique marine ecosystem. Following Pigeon Key, I skipped over the Gulf Stream to North Andros Island, working at Forfar Field Station, operated by International Field Studies. While education, outreach and SCUBA were primary objectives for visiting high school and

collegiate marine biology groups, I also collaborated with other fisheries conservation groups including the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), NC State University, and the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust (BTT). Each of these field stations allowed me to share my passion for fisheries ecology and educate others about effective management.

Currently I am a MS student in the Fisheries Program at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi under Dr. Ben Walther. My thesis will investigate the trophic ecology of Atlantic Croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) experiencing seasonal hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Using stable isotopes, I will resolve any hypoxia driven shifts from benthic to pelagic food webs, with implications for population management. I am also proud to serve as the President of the TAUM-CC AFS subunit. Through my involvement with AFS, I have initiated service events with local conservation organizations helping to raise over \$15,000 for fisheries. Also as part of the TAMUCC subunit, I supported the TCAFS Annual meeting in Corpus Christi this year. I am excited to receive a graduate award to present my research poster at the Tampa Annual AFS meeting in conjunction with the Stable Isotope Symposium.

My involvement with fisheries research and the AFS has created a wealth of opportunity in my professional and personal life. The

Southern Division has the incredible ability to activate and support undergraduate and graduate fisheries research. As a representative to the SDAFS EXCOM, I would gain unmeasured benefits from interacting with the society and be able to present the concerns of student members. The AFS exists to bring together researchers to solve difficult ecological problems. I would like to use this networking conduit to assist the incredible research of the next generation of fisheries scientists. Thank you for your consideration.

American Fisheries Society  
Southern Division

RESOLUTION ON STANDARDIZATION OF  
FISH DATA MANAGEMENT

Adopted February 3, 2017

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

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

WHEREAS other non-governing organizations such as universities, research institutions, NGO's and the private sector collect a vast amount of freshwater fisheries data that could be applied to broader uses, and;

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in some cases the fish data collected and managed by governing fish and wildlife agencies and others continues to lack sufficient consistency and quality control to support science-based decisions, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society, assembled at its annual meeting on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February in the year of 2017 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma urges the local governing and provincial fish and wildlife agencies and others collecting freshwater fish data in North America to commit the necessary staff and financial resources to improve the utility of freshwater fish data through the following actions:



(Data Management Resolution Continued)

- Bring freshwater fish sampling methods by all agency staff into compliance with existing fish sampling standards to ensure consistency in the data over time and across the jurisdiction.
- Where possible, build from findings of prior data summits and interagency symposia (many available at [www.fishdata.org](http://www.fishdata.org)) to advance the ability to effectively share information with other agencies.
- Where possible, bring existing fish standard sampling protocols into compliance with recommendations in Bonar et al. (2009) to ensure proper site selection, deployment of equipment, and quantification of sample bias and capture efficiency.
- Develop and maintain metadata describing the sample objectives, site selection criteria, site conditions, and other information contained in AFS guidance to ensure that data are properly used in analyses.
- Employ quality assurance/quality control procedures to ensure that data are accurate and properly recorded.
- Maintain a statewide data management system to facilitate data management, quality control and ability for sharing.
- Utilize standards for data sharing to facilitate sharing of fish data with users other than the originating agency.
- Encourage and facilitate data sharing to support management and conservation actions beyond agency jurisdiction or specific but sometimes narrow data collection purposes.

## THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER THANKS YOU!

The Oklahoma Chapter AFS would like to thank the 300 SDAFS members, students, and guests who attended SDAFS 2017 in Oklahoma City. Attendance from SDAFS membership is critical to the success of our annual meeting, and your participation in February 2017 has generated positive revenue for SDAFS and OKAFS. We hope you found the technical committee meetings, many workshops, symposia, and general technical sessions to be useful in your job or studies. OKAFS members look forward to returning the favor through our attendance and participation in future SDAFS meetings!

## Southern Division American Fisheries Society

## Spring Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, 2 February 2017

Oklahoma City Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 14-15

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Dave Coughlan called the EXCOM meeting to order at 1539 hrs. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio called roll and the following chapter proxies were identified: Dave Coughlan for Alabama and North Carolina, Chris Racey for Arkansas, Kim Bonvechio for Florida, Patrick O'Rourke for Georgia, Robby Maxwell for Louisiana, Dennis Riecke for Mississippi, Wes Neal for Puerto Rico, Brian Alford for Tennessee, Mike Isel for Virginia. Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, Dave Coughlan; Past President, Dennis Riecke; President-Elect, Wes Porak; Vice President, Craig Bonds; and Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio) and special guest, Fisheries Chief of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Barry Bolton.

President Coughlan presented the Spring EXCOM Meeting agenda. Jason Olive made a motion to approve the agenda and Bryant Bowen seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

**SDAFS President Report**

President Coughlan reviewed some changes with the way the Student Affairs Committee allocates rooms for students at SDAFS meetings, including preference given to students who are AFS members and are giving an oral or poster presentation, equitable distribution of rooms for both undergraduate and graduate students, and expectation of volunteer hours at the SDAFS meeting. He recognized the new SDAFS Representative to the AFS Nominating Committee, Dr. Jim Rice (North Carolina State University) and SDAFS Representative to the C. W. Watson Award Nominating Committee, Dr. Cecil Jennings (University of Georgia). Other noteworthy actions by the SDAFS in 2016 included a \$500 donation to the Kansas City AFS meeting and the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Florida AFS chapter to provide logistical, financial, and symposia support in exchange for 10% share of the Tampa AFS meeting profits.

**SDAFS Officer Reports**

President-Elect Porak noted his report stands as written. He also acknowledged the partnership and hard work of those involved in the planning of the Oklahoma City SDAFS meeting.

Vice President Bonds presented his review of the Striped Bass Technical Committee. With a sufficient coffer, new chair, and active members, the committee is looking forward to a new direction. Possible changes include re-branding the committee to include other *Morone* species, increasing collaborations with other technical committees, improving communications among committee members and with other committees, and new fundraising opportunities (e.g., ebooks; selling merchandise). Vice President Bonds' recommendations to the EXCOM are to 1) support the re-branding of the technical committee; 2) provide guidance on technical

(EXCOMM Meeting Report Continued)

committee voting/participation guidelines and procedures; 3) provide guidance for selling merchandise; 4) provide better communication and technical support between AFS, SDAFS, and committees; 5) facilitate ways to improve communications within and among committees; and 6) reach out to state fish chiefs for guidance on the future needs/direction of the committees. Following his report, some discussion ensued. One suggestion was to consider overlapping technical committee sessions to facilitate collaborative efforts.

Immediate Past President Riecke noted that he represented the SDAFS at the West Virginia, Mississippi, and Louisiana AFS Chapter meetings in 2016. Other highlights included working with AFS staff on website issues, as well as soliciting nominations and holding SDAFS officer elections.

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio's reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2016 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2016 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS website. Having received no comments or revisions, Vice President Bonds made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and President-Elect Porak seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. No further questions or comments were received and the minutes stand approved as read.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted main points from the 2016 SDAFS financial statement. Income from the Wheeling, WV Meeting (\$8,912.06) was about higher than anticipated and an additional \$1,000 was given to the SDAFS as part of the Jack Dequine Estate Distribution. Also, the SDAFS was able to get \$1,431.59 in federal tax withholdings reimbursed for the Reservoir Technical Committee. These funds were collected, due to a discrepancy with the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on its investment account. Expense levels and types were similar to what was provided in the 2016 proposed budget, except for officer travel expenses which were much lower than budgeted (\$890.77 vs \$3,000) and an additional expense for software upgrade for podcast services (\$124.50). As a result, the SDAFS balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$18,921.09, which was \$8,507.79 above the projected level.

Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances were in agreement. An audit of the 2016 financial information was completed 14 January 2017 by the SDAFS Audit Committee. This report was read aloud in its entirety by President Coughlan. A motion to approve the committee's report was made by Lawrence Dorsey and seconded by Hae Kim. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Proposed 2017 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted some of the major changes to the upcoming budget. In exchange for a \$5,000 donation to the AFS Tampa meeting, a minimum return of \$15,000 is expected from the 10% share of meeting proceeds. Furthermore, as part of the MOU, the SDAFS webmaster, Hae Kim, will be handling all meeting website needs while the Website Chair is deployed overseas. In exchange for that service, the SDAFS will pay his registration cost for the Tampa AFS meeting (\$150). Website services will increase from \$166.13 in 2016 to an estimated \$3,000 in 2017, due to fees associated with moving the SDAFS and all technical committee websites onto the AFS server. The SDAFS also proposed a one-time donation of \$1,000 to SEAFWA for journal support. In anticipation of additional revenue from the AFS Tampa meeting, it was recommended that the SDAFS invest a minimum of \$10,000 into the AFS Investment Portfolio. This would replace the \$6,000 Strategic Reserve Fund that was being housed in the SDAFS checking account. With such a low interest return on the SDAFS checking account (\$1.67 in 2016) versus the potential for a much higher return rate for the AFS Investment



**(EXCOMM Meeting Report Continued)**

Portfolio, the SDAFS is hopeful this will provide more long-term financial security. Some discussion ensued regarding technical committees' EIN issues and the AFS Investment proposal. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio reminded technical committees to address any IRS-related issues immediately to avoid the loss of any tax exempt status. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio clarified the \$10,000 investment was contingent upon receiving a \$15,000 minimum return from the Tampa AFS meeting and would not be made until the end of the 2017 calendar year (at the earliest) after all monies had been received. If more than \$15,000 was received, possible uses of that money, such as increased financial and student support for the 2018 SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico and other member services, will be discussed and approved in the 2018 budget. A motion to approve the 2017 budget was made by Wes Neal and seconded by Brian Alford. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Reports from Committees with Action Items**

Immediate Past President Riecke notified the EXCOM of the "Resolution on Standardization of Fish Data Management." He provided some background and history of the resolution, including comments received after being published in the 2016 SDAFS summer newsletter and distributed to SDAFS members via the listserv. A motion to approve and present the resolution to the SDAFS membership at the business meeting was made by Jason Olive and seconded by Brian Alford. Afterwards, Brian Alford explained that the Warmwater Streams Technical Committee led the effort, in collaboration with the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), to facilitate sharing of information among groups. Motion passed by unanimous vote. President Coughlan read a draft of the resolution of appreciation for the principal organizers of the 2017 SDAFS Meeting in Oklahoma City. A motion to approve the host resolution was made by Immediate Past President Riecke and seconded by Eric Raymen. Discussion ensued regarding wording and the addition of the MICRA paddlefish and sturgeon working group to the list of meetings. Vice President Bonds moved to approve the resolution as amended, which was seconded by Cindy Williams. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Chapter Reports**

**Host Comments** – Clayton Porter welcomed attendees to Oklahoma City and thanked key members of the planning committee and volunteers, as well as Barry Bolton for his help with sponsorships.

**Alabama** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Arkansas** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Florida** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio, proxy for the Florida Chapter, also noted that planning for the Tampa AFS meeting is progressing smoothly.

**Georgia** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Patrick O'Rourke, proxy for the Georgia Chapter, added that 145 people, including 45 students, attended the 2017 Georgia Chapter meeting. The chapter awarded its first \$500 scholarship and assisted with travel for 10 undergraduates to attend the meeting. Ronnie Gilbert also provided the chapter with a generation \$10,000 donation.

**Kentucky (inactive)** – Not present. No report submitted.

**Louisiana** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Robby Maxwell, proxy for the Louisi-

(EXCOMM Meeting Report Continued)

ana Chapter, also announced the upcoming chapter meeting in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

**Mississippi** - Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Immediate Past President Riecke, proxy for the Mississippi Chapter, also announced the upcoming joint chapter meeting with the Alabama Chapter at the IP Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi.

**North Carolina** - Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. President Coughlan, proxy for the North Carolina Chapter, also announced the upcoming chapter meeting and Mussel ID Workshop in New Bern, North Carolina.

**Oklahoma** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Potomac** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Puerto Rico** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Wes Neal, proxy for Puerto Rico, also announced a planning meeting on March 1, 2017 for the upcoming SDAFS meeting scheduled for 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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

**Tennessee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Texas** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also, highlighted were several records broken for the recent Texas Chapter meeting, including technical presentations (77), posters (40), student-mentor lunch pairings (38), attendance (292), fundraising (up 40%), and awards (ten \$1,500 scholarships and a \$500 research reward). Planning is underway for the upcoming SDAFS meeting to be held in Galveston, Texas from January 24-27, 2019.

**Tidewater** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Virginia** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted were the recent joint meeting with the Virginia Tech Chapter in Lexington, Virginia and an upcoming International Snakehead Symposium to be held in May 2018.

**Virginia Tech** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**West Virginia** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was the upcoming joint meeting with the Pennsylvania Chapter in California, Pennsylvania.

### **Committee Reports**

**Alligator Gar Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Aquaculture Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

(EXCOMM Meeting Report Continued)

**Catfish Management Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was the upcoming Catfish 2020 Symposium to be held immediately preceding the SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Planning is being done jointly between the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee and the North Central Division AFS Ictalurid Technical Committee.

**Pollution Technical Committee** - Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Due to a delay with the freshwater mollusk section, update of Special Publication #30 is now scheduled to be completed in summer 2017. Also, an announcement was made for a symposium on “Emerging Anthropogenic Pollution” at the upcoming Tampa AFS meeting in August 2017.

**Reservoir Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Small Impoundments Technical Committee** – Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also noted was their initiative to identify research needs and collect data across multiple states to address those needs.

**Striped Bass Technical Committee** –Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also noted was the committee’s intention to hold a Moronid symposium at the 2018 SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico. The committee is also considering changing its name to include all Moronid species and selling merchandise such as t-shirts.

**Trout Technical Committee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Warmwater Streams Technical Committee** –Report stands as written in the 2017 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was a \$500 donation received from the North Carolina Chapter in memory of Melissa Coughlan, President Coughlan’s late wife. As such, for 2017, the committee’s annual award is given the title “Jimmie Pigg and Melissa Coughlan Memorial Award.”

## **New Business**

President Coughlan listed the schedule for upcoming SDAFS meetings: San Juan, Puerto Rico (March 7-11, 2018); Galveston, Texas (January 24-27, 2019); Little Rock, Arkansas (2020); and potentially Virginia (2021).

He then addressed the hacking of the former SDAFS website and its subsequent migration to the new AFS server for better security. The SDAFS will pay for that migration and the annual fees associated with the site maintenance for all SDAFS technical committees. However, chapters are responsible for their own migration and maintenance fees, if they choose to host their site on the AFS server (recommended). It was noted that better communication between the chapters and SDAFS is needed to make them aware of the situation and how to proceed with getting their old site information for either the migration to the AFS server or for the formation of a new website altogether.

SDAFS fee structure was discussed. President Coughlan reiterated the need to keep registration costs down by increasing fundraising efforts for SDAFS meetings. Immediate Past President Riecke also mentioned \$5-10 additional “student and division support” fee to be included with registration to improve SDAFS member services. A tiered registration system was used for the first time at the Oklahoma City SDAFS meeting, with lower costs for AFS members than nonmembers. Chapters are also urged to use AFS staff, in particular Shawn Johnston, who can help with negotiating prices for meetings.



(EXCOMM Meeting Report Continued)

In reference to the recent Baton Rouge flooding in 2016, President Coughlan informed the EXCOM of the AFS Disaster Relief program. Disaster relief donations were received at the AFS meeting in Kansas City; however, no requests for those funds have been made since that time. Discussion ensued on ways to make the fund – and the process to distribute those funds where it is needed – more effective. Examples of professional assistance that can be provided with these funds are AFS/SDAFS/Chapter meeting registrations, AFS/Chapter memberships, and donations of professional journals or equipment. Pat Mazik provided some insight on what was done in the past to help members following Hurricane Katrina. Each AFS chapter was given \$2500 which was distributed based on a 3-tier system. This money was used for AFS membership, registration for AFS meetings, and the like. There was also a coordinated effort to collect and distribute supplies, such as books and boats, to affected fisheries offices.

Wes Neal, Fundraising Chair for the 2018 SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico, made a formal donation request to all SDAFS technical committees and chapters for that meeting.

President Coughlan brought up the idea of honoring two AFS staff members (Beth Beard for website help and Shawn Johnston for meeting planning help) at the Florida Chapter business meeting in Tampa. He proposed to make them honorary SDAFS members and provide them each with a \$50 gift card. Lawrence Dorsey made a motion to honor the two staff members at the Tampa AFS meeting with an honorary SDAFS membership and gift card. John Taylor seconded. Discussion ensued about ethics rules involved in an AFS employee accepting gifts of this sort. John Taylor moved to amend the original motion to be contingent upon AFS guidelines, and that was seconded by Robby Maxwell. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. The amended motion passed by unanimous vote.

Following no further new business or discussion items, President Coughlan adjourned the EXCOM meeting at 1730 hrs.

## Southern Division American Fisheries Society

## Annual Business Meeting

Friday, 3 February 2017

Oklahoma City Convention Center – Meeting Rooms 16-18

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Dave Coughlan called the 2017 SDAFS Business Meeting to order at 1742 hrs. Current SDAFS officers were introduced: President, Dave Coughlan; President-Elect, Wes Porak; Vice President, Craig Bonds; and Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio; Past President, Dennis Riecke; Student Representative to the EXCOM, Andrew Taylor. President Coughlan welcomed attendees to Oklahoma City, marking the 65th year of the SDAFS. Steve Lochmann made a motion to approve the agenda, which was then seconded by Ken Kurzawski. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

President Coughlan recognized distinguished guests in attendance: Fisheries Chief of Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Barry Bolton, AFS Deputy Director Dan Cassidy, AFS Executive Director Doug Austen, AFS President-Elect and Past SDAFS President Steve McMullin, and Past SDAFS Presidents John Jackson, Steve Lochmann, Pat Mazik, Brian Murphy, and Jeff Boxrucker.

AFS President-Elect Steve McMullin's Remarks: AFS President Joe Margraf sent his regrets that he was unable to make the meeting. President-Elect McMullin provided a summary of President Margraf's main initiatives which are to: 1) increase the relevance of AFS publications in the digital age and 2) improve alignment of AFS certification with employer expectations. Publication issues to be addressed include the renewal of the AFS journal publisher contract, impact factor scores for AFS journals, partnership agreements with other journals or organizations, and facilitating gray literature distribution. The AFS certification process is also being examined to determine if it needs to be changed to better meet expectations of employers. AFS Governing Board meeting will take place in Mystic, Connecticut in coordination with the AFS Northeastern Division and Southern New England Chapter meeting. There are many agenda items for the meeting, but President-Elect McMullin mentioned two in particular: the evaluation of the AFS policy group and diversity challenges. President-Elect McMullin further highlighted some of his main initiatives for his upcoming Presidential term. One of his main priorities will be to increase diversity in AFS and natural resource fields. The focus will be on developing ways to get students into and then keeping them in the "pipeline" (i.e., from the Hutton program to the college degree program to fisheries profession). Secondly, he is committed to improving communication of fisheries science to policymakers and non-technical audiences.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austen Remarks: Executive Director Austen expressed his appreciation to the SDAFS and the Oklahoma Chapter. To add to what President-Elect McMullin said about diversity, he mentioned the "Diversity Joint Venture", which is a group of organizations, including AFS, whose aim is to increase diversity in the natural resource profession. From AFS, the Equal Opportunity Section is taking the

(Annual Business Meeting Report Continued)

lead on this and will be bringing more information to the membership in the near future. Executive Director Austen also highlighted a growing number of student subunits (now up to 82) and summarized some of the support services available to SDAFS, Chapters, and Subunits, including secure website hosting, newsletters and other publications, and financial and tax services. Upcoming AFS meetings were

announced: annual meetings in Tampa, Florida (2017); Atlantic City, New Jersey (2018); joint AFS/Wildlife Society meeting in Reno, Nevada (2019); 150th Anniversary Meeting in Columbus, OH (2020); and Baltimore, Maryland (2021). The update to the Special Publication 30 (Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills) should be available by summer 2017. AFS has been seeking money from state agencies to help fund this effort and is appreciative of all the support received thus far. With all of the changes occurring in the federal government AFS is taking steps to ensure it remains relevant to policymakers and to ensure that these policymakers have the scientific information they need to make important decisions regarding the country's aquatic natural resources.

**SDAFS President Coughlan's Address:** President Coughlan reminded attendees of his 2016 challenge to read one AFS book in its entirety, such as his book of choice *Challenges for Diadromous Fishes in a Dynamic Global Environment* (Symposium 69). Although he was unable to finish that particular book, he was able to read various others and encouraged people to take advantage of AFS book sales and dedicate time to reading those books. Another important reminder was given about safety in the field. President Coughlan urged attendees, especially newer professionals, to wear bright colored clothing and practice safety and rescue protocols in the event something happens like the fatal Duke Energy accident in 1980.

**Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio's Report:** Minutes from the 2016 Business Meeting were published in the Summer 2016 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS website. Having received no comments or revisions, John Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and Pat Mazik seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. No further questions or comments were received and the minutes stand approved as read.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted main points from the 2016 SDAFS financial statement. Income from the Wheeling, WV Meeting (\$8,912.06) was about higher than anticipated and an additional \$1,000 was given to the SDAFS as part of the Jack Dequine Estate Distribution. Also, the SDAFS was able to get \$1,431.59 in federal tax withholdings reimbursed for the Reservoir Technical Committee. These funds were collected, due to a discrepancy with the Employer Identification Number (EIN) on its investment account. Expense levels and types were similar to what was provided in the 2016 proposed budget, except for officer travel expenses which were much lower than budgeted (\$890.77 vs \$3,000) and an additional expense for software upgrade for podcast services (\$124.50). As a result, the SDAFS balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$18,921.09, which was \$8,507.79 above the projected level. An audit of the 2016 financial information was completed 14 January 2017 by the SDAFS Audit Committee. This report, which was previously approved by the EXCOM, was read aloud in its entirety by President Coughlan.

The Proposed 2017 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted some of the major changes to the upcoming budget. In exchange for a \$5,000 donation to the AFS Tampa meeting, a minimum return of \$15,000 is expected from the 10% share of meeting proceeds. Furthermore, as part of the MOU, the SDAFS webmaster, Hae Kim, will be handling all meeting website needs while the Website Chair is deployed overseas. In exchange for that service, the SDAFS will pay his registration cost for the Tampa AFS



(Annual Business Meeting Report Continued)

meeting (\$150). Website services will increase from \$166.13 in 2016 to an estimated \$3,000 in 2017, due to fees associated with moving the SDAFS and all technical committee websites (six in all) onto the AFS server. The SDAFS also proposed a one-time donation of \$1,000 to SEAFWA for journal

support. In anticipation of additional revenue from the AFS Tampa meeting, the SDAFS is planning to invest \$10,000 into the AFS Investment Portfolio. This would replace the \$6,000 Strategic Reserve Fund that was being housed in the SDAFS checking account. With such a low interest return on the SDAFS checking account (\$1.67 in 2016) versus the potential for a much higher return rate for the AFS Investment Portfolio, the SDAFS is hopeful this will provide more long-term financial security. President Coughlan informed attendees that this budget was discussed and subsequently approved at the 2017 EXCOM meeting by unanimous consent. He also formally acknowledged Hae Kim from the Virginia Tech Chapter for his role in helping with the transfer of the SDAFS and SDAFS technical committee websites and his webmaster services for the Tampa AFS meeting.

Host Chapter Report: Kurt Kuklinski with the Oklahoma Chapter welcomed attendees and special guests, including AFS President-Elect McMullin and Deputy Director Doug Austen, to Oklahoma City for the 2017 SDAFS meeting. He extended his appreciation for the hard work of all those on the planning committee and those who put on the eleven workshops, as well as this year's vendors and sponsors. Other housekeeping announcements were also made.

President-Elect Wes Porak's Chapter Activity Report: President-Elect Porak briefly summarized and highlighted some of the Chapters' accomplishments in 2016. In all, 18 chapters submitted reports for the annual Southern Division briefing book. Most held an annual meeting, with a conservative attendance estimate of 1,637 not including subunits. Oklahoma helped plan an atypical AFS meeting called the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference that helped other societies and entities network with fisheries scientists and learn about fisheries project within the state. The South Carolina Chapter had a plenary session on Effectively Using Social Media in Fisheries. Chapter meetings included some timely symposia, such as Dam Removal (Georgia Chapter) and Dan River Coal Ash Spill (North Carolina and Virginia Chapters). Workshops included Fish Identification (Louisiana Chapter), Conservation Genetics (North Carolina and Virginia Chapters), and Acoustical Analysis of Fisheries and Habitat (Texas Chapter). Special projects included subunits that worked on habitat improvement projects (Arkansas Chapter), working with SARP and the DNR to provide technical support to initiate riparian connectivity actions (Puerto Rico Chapter), 20th year judging and providing awards for a high school science fair (Arkansas Chapter), and a Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Virginia for distribution to the general public (Virginia Chapter). Well over 100 Chapter awards were presented to deserving scientists for best papers or posters, fisheries scientists of the year, conservation awards, distinguished service, student scholarships, student travel stipends to meetings, and lifetime achievement awards. President-Elect Porak recognized several of the lifetime achievement award winners that have consistently been involved with the SDAFS over their careers: Phil Bettoli (Tennessee Chapter), Hal Schramm (Mississippi Chapter), and Ronnie Gilbert (Georgia Chapter). Other lifetime achievement award winners were also Past Presidents of the SDAFS: Steve Lochmann (Arkansas Chapter), Brian Murphy (Virginia Chapter), and Larry Connor (Florida Chapter). President-Elect Porak concluded by thanking the many volunteers in Chapters throughout the Southern Division that continue to advance the science, develop professionalism, promote fisheries conservation, and educate professionals and the public.

Vice President Craig Bonds' Technical Committee Report: Vice President Bonds shared his review of the

(Annual Business Meeting Report Continued)

Striped Bass Technical Committee. During that review, issues were identified that likely influence other committees. The Striped Bass Technical Committee is looking to re-brand itself to be more inclusive of other Moronid species. Although specific to a species (or species group), this technical committee deals with issues that may overlap with those in other

committees, like the Reservoir or Aquaculture Technical Committees. As a result, it is important to encourage better communication among committees by having joint meeting sessions or identifying members to be a part of informal working groups in other committees to tackle specific issues. Vice President Bonds reiterated that anyone is welcome to sit in and participate on technical committee meetings. He also committed to meeting with fisheries chiefs in other southern states to identify issues that could be addressed by the different technical committees to help direct future efforts. Finally, he stated how the SDAFS and AFS will be working to improve communications support for technical committees in the future.

Resolutions Committee Report: President Coughlan recognized Gene Wilde as Chair of the Resolutions Committee. Wilde read a prepared resolution in appreciation of the host Chapter. Brian Murphy made a motion to approve the host resolution and Hal Schramm seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Wilde then provided some background of the Resolution on Standardization of Fish Data Management. John Taylor made a motion to dispense with the reading of the resolution and Brian Alford seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Jeff Boxrucker then made a motion to approve the resolution and Hae Kim seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Brian Murphy made a motion to forward the resolution to the AFS Resolutions Committee for consideration and John Taylor seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ballot Committee Report: President Coughlan recognized Past President Dennis Riecke as Chair of the Ballot Committee. In the SDAFS summer 2016 newsletter, biographies and statements for each candidate were presented. Candidates were Wes Neal and Mike Kaller for Vice President (winner Wes Neal); Kim Bonvechio and Jill Hendon for Secretary-Treasurer (winner Kim Bonvechio); and Matthew Acre, Amy Cottrell, Kasey Pregler, and Dan Walker for Student Representative to the EXCOM (winner Amy Cottrell). A total of 244 members voted for the Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer positions, and 161 students voted for the Student Representative. Past President Riecke urged people to use their voice and vote for their elected officers.

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

The runner-up 2016 SEAFWA John F. Dequine Best Paper Award was given to Patrick O'Rourke formerly of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and now with Georgia Power for his manuscript/presentation entitled Movement and Growth of Wild Brown Trout in the Chattahoochee River below Lake Lanier, Georgia. First place was given to Jeremy T. Risley (Ronald L. Johnson, and Jeffrey W. Quinn, co-authors) of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for their manuscript/presentation entitled Evaluation of the Commercially Exploited Paddlefish Fishery in the Lower Mississippi River of Arkansas. Plaques and checks for \$50 (runner-up) and \$100 (first place) were given to each first author. Co-authors received certificates.

(Annual Business Meeting Report Continued)

There were no Distinguished Service or Outstanding Chapter Awards.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was given to J. R. Shute and Patrick Rakes of Conservation Fisheries, Incorporated for their role in the conservation and preservation of imperiled fishes. They have been leaders in the recovery of 60 imperiled species in the eastern United States, leading to the delisting of several of these species and publication of guidelines for the propagation of imperiled species.

The Best Student Subunit Award went to North Carolina State University for their commitment to AFS at all levels, as well as their numerous outreach and fundraising activities, monthly meetings, and communication efforts.

The Best Poster Award from the 2016 SDAFS Meeting in Wheeling, WV went to Luv Viswa (Derek Gray, David Argent, and William Kimmel, coauthors) of California University of Pennsylvania for their work entitled Does the Spiny Water Flea Dominate Communities in the Allegheny River? Second place Best Student Presentation Award from the 2016 SDAFS Meeting was given to Edward Stowe (Douglas Peterson, coauthor) of University of Georgia for their work entitled Using Side-Scan Sonar to Assess the Atlantic Sturgeon Spawning Run in the Altamaha River. The Best Student Presentation was awarded to Alex Cummins (Adam Fox, Chris Kalinowsky, Richard Chandler, Matt Streich, and Douglas Peterson, coauthors) of University of Georgia for their work entitled Seasonal Movements and Annual Mortality Rates of Tripletail (*Lobotes surinamensis*) in the Southeast. Plaques and checks for \$50 (Best Poster and Second Place Best Presentation) and \$100 (First Place Best Presentation) were given to each first author prior to the meeting. Coauthors received certificates.

Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship was presented by Chair of the SDAFS Reservoir Committee Lawrence Dorsey. Chosen from a pool seven applicants, the \$500 scholarship was awarded to Dray Carl of Oklahoma State University.

Brian Alford, Chair of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee, presented the Jimmie Pigg and Melissa Coughlan Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award. Chosen from a pool of six applicants, the \$500 award and complimentary one-year membership to AFS was given to Corey Dunn of University of Missouri.

Eric Ganus, Chair of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, presented Zach Moran of Arkansas Tech University with the \$300 Catfish Management Committee Scholarship award for his work with blue catfish in Arkansas.

Gene Gilliland with the SDAFS Black Bass Conservation Committee presented the Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarship for Females in Fisheries. Chosen from a pool of 29 applicants from 19 universities, Whitney (Jacobs) Della Torre formerly of University of Georgia and now an environmental law student was awarded the \$1000 scholarship.

A certificate of appreciation was given to David Wellman for his work as Student Affairs Acting Chair at the 2016 SDAFS meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Resolution of Appreciation to Host plaques and certificates were given to the Oklahoma Chapter and key members of the meeting planning committee: Kurt Kuklinski (General Meeting Chair), Jim Long (Program Chair), Jason Schooley (Symposium Chair), Steve O'Donnell (Poster Chair), Dan Shoup (Workshop Chair), Ni-



(Annual Business Meeting Report Continued)

cole Rankin (Student Affairs Chair), Bill Wentroth (Registration Chair), Ken Cunningham (Fund Raising Chair), Barry Bolton (Local Arrangements Chair), Don Groom (Technology Chair), and Nathan Copeland (Meeting Webmaster). Plaques

were presented to the Oklahoma Chapter, the general meeting chair, and the program chair. Everyone else received certificates.

Past award certificates were distributed to those in attendance.

Old Business: None.

Installation of 2017 Officers: Prior to installing new officers, President Coughlan gave a word of appreciation to two people ending their terms on the EXCOM, Past President Riecke and Student Representative to the EXCOM Andrew Taylor. New officers were Amy Cottrell, Student Representative to the EXCOM (escorted by Steve Sammons); Kim Bonvechio, Secretary-Treasurer; Wes Neal, Vice President (escorted by Brian Haley and Steve Lochmann); Craig Bonds, President-Elect (escorted by Ken Kurzawski and Dave Terre); and Wes Porak, President (escorted by Nick and Jessica Feltz).

Newly Installed President Wes Porak's Remarks: President Porak commended Past President Coughlan for his service to the SDAFS, then offered him a plaque of appreciation and special bottle of gin. President Porak remarked on his career with AFS since 1975 and the opportunity he had to attend many Chapter, SDAFS, and AFS meetings. At each of these meetings, he enjoys reconnecting with old colleagues like Hal Schramm, Gene Gilliland, and Jeff Boxrucker, as well as meeting some of the new energetic people who are advancing the science. President Porak reminded attendees that the SDAFS EXCOM exists to service its members, from technical committee members to chapter members to general meeting participants. He listed four main goals for his presidential term: 1) Financial stability. The more financial stability the SDAFS has and the more revenue it can bring in, the more it can help its members with special projects, member services, and other support. He highlighted the partnership between the SDAFS and Florida Chapter for the upcoming Tampa AFS meeting in August 2017. As part of this partnership, the SDAFS set up a tradeshow booth for the Tampa AFS meeting, donated \$5000 towards the meeting, recruited symposia submissions from the Southern Division, and are helping with fundraising efforts. Our SDAFS webmaster, Hae Kim, also stepped up to take over web service duties for the meeting. This should result in a significant return for the SDAFS, allowing us to be financially secure for the next 3-5 years. 2) Improve internal communication. President Porak has assigned a group of young professionals and students to look into ways we can improve that communication. 3) Promote mentorship. Mentorship is a great way to encourage young professionals and students, from giving talks, to learning from others' mistakes to networking. 4) SDAFS meeting in Puerto Rico. President Porak stated his commitment to making next year's SDAFS meeting as successful as possible.

New Business: President Porak invited Pat Mazik to talk about the SDAFS Puerto Rico meeting. The meeting will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Juan in March 2018. The planning committee, with the help of Shawn Johnston at AFS headquarters, was able to negotiate a great hotel deal of \$195/night (during the meeting as well as two days before and two days following) with no resort fee. The hotel is providing each person with a \$25 breakfast voucher and \$10 Uber voucher, and is providing complimentary morning breaks and social for the SDAFS meeting. Meet Puerto Rico is also giving the SDAFS \$10 for each room night reserved at the Intercontinental Hotel. With those arrangements, plus reasonable airfare to Puerto and no passport

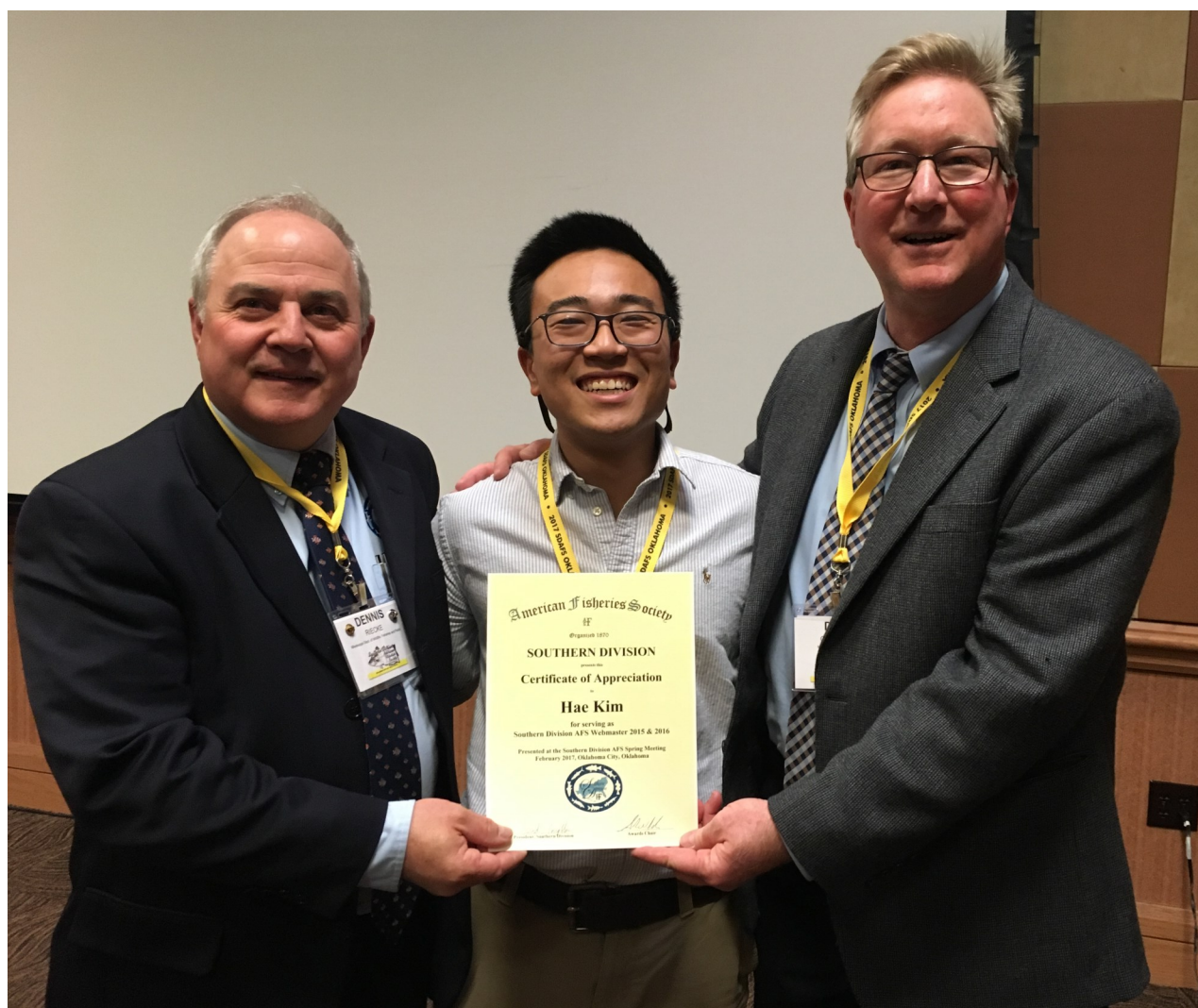
(Annual Business Meeting Report Continued)

needed for travel, the planning committee believes that costs can be kept within range of other SDAFS meetings. Wes Neal also provided some insight on things to do near San Juan, from deep sea and inland fishing to exploring the beach or the San Juan area to whale watching.

Meet Puerto Rico also provided the tradeshow booth items. As fundraising chair, he again requested donations for the meeting and welcomes suggestions, such as workshop ideas, to make the meeting as beneficial as possible.

Before adjourning, President Porak presented Hae Kim with a certificate of appreciation for serving as the SDAFS webmaster for 2015 and 2016 and for his work with the Tampa AFS meeting website. He also presented a certificate of appreciation to Gene Wilde for serving as Resolutions Chair and Awards Chair for 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 1924.



SDAFS Past-Presidents Dennis Riecke (left) and Dave Coughlan (right) pose for a photo with Webmaster Hae Kim at the 2017 Business Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

# Meeting Announcements



The Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society invites you to beautiful Tampa, Florida for the 147th Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society on August 20-24, 2017!

With our theme, “Fisheries Ecosystems: Uplands to Oceans,” we look forward to hosting professionals from around the world as they present and discuss diverse approaches to managing and conserving our world’s natural resources.

The Tampa AFS Planning Committee has been working hard to ensure this is an engaging meeting for all attendees.

5 networking events, including a Student Networking Event at the Lowry Park Zoo and Grand Networking Event at the Florida Aquarium

13 continuing education courses and workshops, many of which are being offered for the first time at the annual meeting

Over 80 symposia on a broad range of fisheries topics

Spawning Run and Carcass Crawl

Tradeshow

Silent auction and raffle

All of the meeting details, from schedules to registration, can be found at <https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/>

It will be an exciting and engaging experience for all...we look forward to seeing you there!



## Tampa AFS Symposia

The Tampa AFS Meeting will feature 86 symposia (<https://afs.confex.com/afs/2017/meetingapp.cgi/Program/>) with two symposia sponsored by Southern Division scientists. Details are provided below.

### **Emerging Anthropogenic Pollution and its Effects on our Aquatic Resources: Recent Advances in Fish Kill and Pollution Event Investigations**

The Pollution Committee of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society has organized a special symposium held in conjunction with the American Fisheries Society's 2017 Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida. The Pollution Committee has led the effort on keeping fish kill investigation methods and monetary fish values updated since the 1970's and is currently working to finalizing a values revision in collaboration with the AFS Socioeconomics Section, and the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society. The purpose of this symposium is to examine emerging anthropogenic pollutants resulting in fish kills and to highlight techniques and evaluations used to investigate these events. Many states are struggling with responding to substantial fish kills caused by anthropogenic pollutants that they are unfamiliar with. Some of these pollutants are the result or byproduct of eutrophication (harmful algal blooms), fracking, and oil transmission pipelines. Topics will address other emerging pollutants as well and recent advances in fish kill investigations. Please check <https://afsannualmeeting.fisheries.org/> for the most up to date information about symposium scheduling.

### **Fishing for a Solution in a Sea of Competing Objectives: Sustaining Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in an Increasingly Complex World**

Fishery removals, invasive species, habitat degradation, and climate change have been a concern of fisheries managers because of the potential to disrupt aquatic communities and alter habitats that support fish populations. In the face of the aforementioned anthropogenic factors, most resource managers concentrate efforts on regulations that control harvests (e.g., length and creel limits, or quotas) because of the purported benefits and relative ease of implementation. However, in cases where commercial and recreational fisheries operate simultaneously, the development of regulations may be challenging. For example, controversies have arisen concerning the allocation of harvests among commercial and recreational sectors for several species in the large aquatic systems of North America. At times, the closure of one sector but not the other has sparked controversies about fairness (e.g., closure of the commercial fishery but the continuation of recreational fishing) of resource allocation. To provide for long-term sustainable fisheries and ameliorate conflict between sectors, proper management should be based on a thorough understanding of the links between humans, the resource, and the environment. The goal of this symposium is to provide a platform for fisheries professionals to discuss these issues through exploration of case studies that demonstrate the complexity of competing demands. In particular, we seek to discuss the sometimes unique conflicts between sectors, associated management strategies, and potential resolutions and emerging approaches to ensure proper management of fisheries.

Chairs, Moderators and Organizers:

Vaskar Nepal KC; Quinton Phelps; Mary C. Fabrizio



**March 7-11, 2018 – Save the Date!**

## AFS SOUTHERN DIVISION SPRING MEETING

March 7 – 11, 2018  
San Juan, Puerto Rico



**PUERTO RICO**

The home of the Piña Colada and the tarpon



The Puerto Rico Chapter of AFS invites members in all AFS Chapters and Divisions to join us at the beautiful Intercontinental Hotel in sunny San Juan. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to exchange ideas and foster collegiality in a unique tropical setting. It may say division in the title, but this will be a truly international meeting. For more information, visit our website at <http://sd.fisheries.org/>. We hope to see you there!

Credits: Orlando Barrios, photographer; Enid Silva,



## 2018 Southern Division Spring Meeting



The Puerto Rico Chapter would like to invite you to attend the 2018 SDAFS Spring meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel March 7-11, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. More information on this Hotel and Conference Center can be found at <http://www.icsanjuan.com/>.

We have received a great room rate for this meeting (\$190/night) and Puerto Rico does not require a passport! The room rate is extended for two days before and two days after the meeting. Attendees will receive Uber and breakfast vouchers, attend diverse workshops, symposia and presentations and be able to enjoy the friendly atmosphere, people and food of Puerto Rico.

For more information about the meeting, visit the meeting website at <http://sd.fisheries.org/puerto-rico-2018-meeting/>. Workshops, symposia, committee meetings, business meetings, breaks and social events will be included in the meeting.

For more information about the 2018 SDAFS meeting contact General Co-Chair Pat Mazik at [pmazik@wvu.edu](mailto:pmazik@wvu.edu) or call 304/293-4943.

Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is headed to College Station!

Come join TCAFS at our 2018 Annual Meeting!

January 25-27, 2018

Hilton College Station & Conference Center



#### Lodging information

Address: 801 University Dr., College Station, TX 77840

Phone: (979) 693-7500 Fax: (979) 260-1931

Room Block (*closes 1/3/2018*): "TCAFS 2018"

Rates: Single-\$110; Double-\$110; Triple-\$130; Quad-\$140

**\*\*Please email [michael.homer@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:michael.homer@tpwd.texas.gov) for more information\*\***

## WILD TROUT SYMPOSIUM

September 26—29, 2017

West Yellowstone, Montana

See <http://wildtroutsymposium.com/index.php> for more information

Check out the awards section and nominate a worthy candidate!

# Chapter Updates

## Mississippi Chapter



The 43rd annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MS AFS) was held on February 22-24, 2017 at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi, Mississippi. This was our first joint meeting with the Alabama Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and a total of 161 attended. MS AFS had 121 attendees, consisting of 29 students and 92 professionals. Of those we had 19 oral and 7 poster presentations given by students, and 40 oral and 8 poster presentations given by professionals. Dr. Jack Killgore, team leader of the Environmental Laboratory at ERDC, was the plenary speaker during the meeting banquet.

The conference was generously supported by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP), the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL), Mississippi State University (MSU), the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Mississippi branch, and Midwest Lake Electrofishing Systems.

Five awards were given for the best student presentations and these awards have been sponsored by the Mississippi CCA since 2009. Students from Mississippi and Alabama competed for these awards, and winners were given both a plaque and cash award. Presentations were judged by attendees from both states.

Winning presentations were:

1st Place: Hunter Hatcher, MSU. Fish assemblages associated with cover in the mudflats of a reservoir.

2nd Place: Kevin Keretz, MSU. Independent effects of temperature, dissolved oxygen, and swimming on survival of angler-caught Largemouth Bass.

3rd Place: Kristin Hannan, Univ. of South AL. Age and growth of the Gulf Chimaera, *Hydrolagus alberti*, in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Honorable Mention: Grant Adams, USM. Spatial variability in the individual growth of Sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*) in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic: Implications for assessment and management.

Honorable Mention: Trevor Moncrief, USM. Age and Growth of Vermilion Snapper (*Rhomboplites aurorubens*) from the north central Gulf of Mexico.

The Chapter recognized the service of Past-President Tyler Stubbs (IDNR) and elected Jill Hendon (USM/CFRD) as the new President-elect.



(Left to Right) Student Presentation Award Winners with Mark Meade (AL judge), 1st place Hunter Hatcher (MSU), 2nd place Kevin Keretz (MSU), Honorable Mention: Grant Adams (USM) and MS AFS Past President Peter Allen. Not pictured are 3rd place winner Kristin Hannan (Univ of South AL) and Trevor Moncrief (USM) who was the other Honorable Mention recipient.



**(Mississippi Chapter Continued)**

The Mississippi Chapter also presented two major awards for significant professional contributions to the scientific community, as well as their impacts on the many lives of colleagues, graduate students, and the fisheries community at large. The C.A. Schultz award was presented to Dr. Jack Killgore, ERDC, and the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Harriet Perry, GCRL. Their work has been influential in Mississippi, the U.S., and abroad. Their dedication, work ethic, and leadership is admired by many, and the MS-AFS Chapter is honored to have both of these individuals as chapter members.



Mississippi Chapter Past-President Dr. Peter Allen (Mississippi State University) presents the C.A. Schultz award to Dr. Jack Killgore (US Army Engineer Research and Development Center).

## Potomac Chapter

The AFS Potomac Chapter has had a lively year so far in 2017. On April 12 we hosted a networking event and happy hour at Denizen's Brewery in Silver Spring, Maryland. Over 40 people attended the event, where we were joined by special guests Ben Friedman, the acting NOAA Administrator, and AFS Executive Director Doug Austen and AFS Policy Director Tom Bigford. In addition, the Potomac Chapter co-sponsored

the 2017 Shad Gala for Veterans at Fletcher's Boat-house on the Potomac River on April 21. The event, organized by the Bureau of Land Management and FishingCommunity.org, brought local military veterans and their families out for a fun day of shad fishing on the Potomac River. Potomac Chapter President Cliff Hutt represented the Chapter there and had a blast helping veterans and their families experience this historic fishery right here in our Nation's Capital.



Members of the Potomac Chapter enjoy a networking event at Denizen's Brewery in Silver Spring Maryland. Photo Credit: Erin Wilkinson.

## Virginia Tech Chapter

Since the Winter SDAFS Newsletter, the Virginia Tech Chapter has been productive. The Chapter organized and attended professional meetings, engaged in multiple outreach activities, held a workshop and hosted several guest speakers.

The Virginia Tech Chapter was well-represented at the SDAFS meeting in Oklahoma City. The Chapter also co-hosted a meeting with the Virginia Chapter in Lexington, Virginia. A large proportion of the oral and poster presentations given during this meeting came from Virginia Tech Chapter members. Additionally, the Chapter EXCOMM served a pivotal role in the organization of the meeting. Three Virginia Tech Chapter members received scholarship awards at the meeting. Attendees benefited from an Applied Fish Health Symposium, 36 talks, and a poster session. A few members attended the Tidewater Chapter

### (Virginia Tech Chapter Continued)

Meeting in Virginia Beach to present research. Additionally, members attended the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Annual Meeting in Norfolk, VA. Planning is underway for Chapter members to attend the 148th Annual AFS Meeting in Tampa, several of whom plan to present their research.

There was no shortage of outreach events for the Chapter since November. Members of the Chapter were active in youth engagement, visiting two elementary schools and one high school to discuss local fish diversity and adaptations. Members were also involved in The Big Event, a student-run community service effort that sent more than 8,000 Virginia Tech volunteers out into the community to help citizens of the New River Valley. Members of VTAFS also assisted the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation by providing demonstrations of local fish diversity and presentations on fish and wildlife careers to visiting high school Governor's School groups. The capstone of the semester's outreach events was the Mudbass Classic Fishing Derby at Virginia Tech's Duck Pond. A grant from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) allowed the Chapter to purchase prizes for attendees and provided fishing rods for all in attendance! While the mudbass (Common Carp) were not cooperative, several anglers won awards for catches of other species. The event was well attended, including an appearance by Congressman Morgan Griffith and his two sons.

In February, the Chapter provided a unique opportunity by hosting a Gyotaku (art of printing fish) workshop. The workshop, led by Jason Emmel and Hae Kim, was well-attended by members of the Chapter and many curious students from other departments on Virginia Tech's campus. Attendees had the opportunity to print local New River fishes, as well as exotic species such as an octopus from a local market. The event was extremely popular and we plan to continue the workshop in the future.

Perhaps the highlight of the semester was the opportunity to host and learn from several great speakers



Virginia Tech Chapter member John Lewis (Left) and incoming Treasurer Zach Crum (Right) display their work during a Chapter-organized Gyotaku workshop.

who graciously gave their time to speak at VTAFS meetings. This semester, we hosted VDGIF Aquatic Deputy Director Mike Bednarski, North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Leader Tom Kwak and Freshwater Institute Senior Researcher John Davidson. All three provided informative presentations and excellent conversation afterward.

The Virginia Tech Chapter recently completed officer elections. We welcome Corbin Hilling (President), Clay Ferguson (Vice-President), Zach Crum (Treasurer), Katie McBaine (Secretary) and Stephen Stang (Outreach Coordinator) to the executive committee. We are excited to see what the future holds for the Chapter. Special congratulations to the fish conservation graduates of 2017.

## Student Subunit Updates

### Mississippi State University

The AFS student sub-unit at Mississippi State University recently finished out another eventful academic year filled with many achievements and opportunities. Our student body has experienced substantial growth over the past year and fully expects further expansion in the coming academic year. Members have been hard at work engaged in various research projects, volunteering their valued time at public outreach events, and fundraising to promote professional development for the future of fisheries science.

Attendance at professional AFS meetings was high at all levels this year. During the fall semester, members traveled to Kansas City, MO to attend the National American Fisheries Society Meeting to share their research and participate in social and networking events. More recently, several of our members attended the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society meeting, in Oklahoma City. Five of our

members presented oral presentations on on-going research and one presented a poster. We took full advantage of the networking opportunities, and many students participated in the

Student-Professional Mentoring Lunch. Members also attended the Mississippi Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting, Joint with the Alabama Chapter, in Biloxi, MS. Nine members presented oral presentations and three presented posters. We were also proud to take home 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Best Student Presentation Awards and would like to sincerely congratulate Vice President, Hunter Hatcher, and past-president, Kevin Keretz, respectfully, on their achievements!

Volunteer opportunities provide our members and community with social outreach for a well-rounded experience. Members attempted to participate in a stream clean up at Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, however inclement weather and high water levels limited our actions. Instead, we used this opportunity to provide routine maintenance and upkeep around the office and surrounding areas, which was greatly appreciated by the refuge staff! The MSU student-subunit of the Wildlife Society also hosted the annual Southeastern Conclave, and AFS provided a fish-identification table for team competitions, canoeing, fly-casting, and telemetry for individual competitions, and help with workshops ranging from water quality to necropsy. Additionally, we aided a faculty member in boosting the sample size of Largemouth Bass from an experimental research pond at MSU and also participated in the inaugural Mississippitopia Event, where our members provided an introduction to fishing.

Fundraising is crucial to our group's growth and development and we are excited to share our accomplishments. Our annual "Fish Dish Competition" was huge success again this year. Members and non-members alike submitted various aquatic-themed dishes to be judged by a panel of experts, some of which included fresh-caught Yellowfin Tuna, Crawfish Chowder, Baked Tilapia, Seafood Paella, and many



Mississippi State University Subunit members volunteered to assist with weekly Paddlefish sampling in accordance with on-going graduate research at MSU.



(MSU Subunit Continued)

many more! Our group also hosted a silent auction at MSAFS which raised money to fund future travel expenses and professional development. Other events included frying catfish for an annual USGS hosted on MSU's campus.

In the coming year, our members have high expectations for continued growth and involvement. Staff and students intend to attend the National AFS meeting in Tampa, FL, participate in and host workshops on sampling methods, aging, and trailer/boat maintenance. We are excited to welcome in our newest Executive Committee and are thankful for the service provided by the past Ex-Comm for getting us to where we are today. We are also so grateful for the support offered by our department and community and are greatly looking forward to another successful year!

*-Chelsea Gilliland*

*MSU-AFS Student Subunit President*

## University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi's AFS Student Sub-unit has had yet another successful year! Over the last 8 months, many of our members have participated in numerous fundraising events including the Jim Franks Merry Fishmas Fun Run, CCA annual banquet, and the Gorenflo's Annual Cobia Tournament. The Fun Run included 30 participants dressed up in their Christmas best and locally donated prizes were given to all of the first and second place runners. Five of our members volunteered at our local Horn Island Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association's annual banquet and in return, CCA donated \$300 dollars to the sub-unit. Our latest fundraiser was at the Gorenflo's Annual Cobia Tournament, where Kysek coolers donated a 50L cooler for the sub-unit to raffle off at the tournament. We sold over sixty tickets, generating around \$300 dollars. All money raised will



University of Southern Mississippi Subunit members at the Jim Franks Merry Fishmas Fun Run

go to our activities and travel scholarships this upcoming year.

Many of our members also had great success academically with multiple travel scholarships and presentations at national and international meetings. Multiple members have also published their work in scholarly journals. We also voted on our new President, Meg Oshima, who will begin her term on June 1<sup>st</sup>. All members are excited for another year of fundraising and engaging with stakeholders to show the importance of the work accomplished by the Gulf Coast Research Lab.

*-Trevor Moncrief*

*USM-AFS Student Subunit President*



## University of Tennessee

The University of Tennessee Wildlife and Fisheries Society allows our students to strengthen both work experience and relationships with both state and federal employees and nongovernmental organizations. These opportunities allow the students to have first-hand experience of what they can expect in their future careers. Our sub-unit is an official body in both the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society, and we encourage the members of this society to indulge in both of these areas. This allows these students to be well-rounded in both wildlife and fisheries management skills. As a sub-unit to both of these great societies, we want to see our members strive to be the best they can be. They can achieve this by volunteering with various agencies, networking with numerous professionals in this field, and working as a team to make our society one of the best in the southeast.

### VOLUNTEERING

Our fisheries students volunteer anywhere and everywhere we can. So far in 2017, we have helped with the Carpenter's Elementary school outdoor education day in Knoxville. This educational outreach teaches elementary school children the importance of conservation and restoration of aquatic life. Furthermore, we teach children about the importance of all outdoor life. UT Fisheries students

continue to assist the Southeast Lake Sturgeon Working Group's research efforts on a reintroduced population of Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*) in the Tennessee River. Each fall, we help electroshock for buffalofish (*Ictiobus* spp) and Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) needed to bait trot-lines for the annual monitoring effort. Each year, we host an educational booth at Sturgeonfest and at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Ag Day. Sub-unit members also got to help with Dr. Brian Alford's lab conduct research on the rare Sickle Darter (*Percina williamsi*), which included using snorkeling, seining, and backpack electroshocking techniques to assess behavior, habitat, diet, and population structure. As you can see, the University of Tennessee's student fisheries chapter tries to volunteer as much as they can wherever they can!

### A SOCIAL SOCIETY

As important as volunteering and networking are, we feel that creating a close-knit environment among the fellow members is just as vital. To maintain this close community, we try to coordinate activities and social gatherings to get away from the stress that the semester may bring. One of our biggest hits with the members is our annual crawfish boil. This a good way for current and future members of the society to interact and blow off steam. It is also a way to show our appreciation for all the

hard work that the students put in during the semester. In April, we boiled 200 lbs. of Louisiana's finest crawfish. We also plan for a fish fry in the fall semester as another outlet for social interaction and to connect with future members of the society.

### ANNUAL WILD GAME DINNER

One of the staple events that our sub-unit puts on every year is our wild game dinner. This event is our big fund raiser that allows our members to attend annual professional meetings like SEAFWA and the TN Chapter of AFS, southeastern wildlife conclaves, and various volunteer and research opportunities. Without the help from the members of our society and the hard work that they put in, this event would not have been possible. In February this year we raised approximately \$11,000 through auction items, ticket sales, and donations.

### LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

In the coming school year (2017-2018), The UT Fisheries Chapter plans on implementing more opportunities for students to expand their knowledge and experience in the field of fisheries. Also, there are a few undergraduate students who will be taking on new undergrad projects under Dr. Brian Alford. We hope to make this coming year even better than the last!

# Committee Updates

## Award Committee

Chair: Jessica Feltz

As the new SDAFS Awards Committee Chair, I look forward to working with my fellow Southern Division officers and Committee Chairs to recognize fisheries professionals and students for their contribution to our science. I would like to thank division president, Wes Porak for this opportunity to serve the Southern Division. To find out more information about awards and nomination criteria, please visit the Southern Division Awards [Website](#); or you can contact me at Jessica.Feltz@MyFWC.com.

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The SDAFS Awards Committee is currently seeking nominations for the 2017-2018 Annual Awards. The SDAFS Awards is an opportunity to recognize colleagues for their noteworthy contribution to fisheries, as well as provide students scholarship opportunities for their outstanding work. Award detail and nomination criteria is available on the SDAFS website. Please submit nominations to the awards committee chair. The following awards are accepting nominations:

#### Distinguished Service Award

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

#### Outstanding Achievement Award

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

creasing the aspirations of the membership.

#### Outstanding Chapter Award and Best Student Subunit Award

Both Outstanding Chapter and Best Student Subunit Award's recognize chapters and subunits within our division that show a dedication to promoting membership, unit activities, and fundraising.

#### C.W. Watson Award

The C.W. Watson award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast who has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, wildlife management, fisheries, management I&E, and available to teachers, professionals, and students. This award is presented jointly by the SDAFS, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). For more information or to submit nominations, please contact the Award Chair Cecil Jennings at [Jennings.uga.edu](mailto:Jennings.uga.edu).

#### John F. Dequine Award for 2016

The John F. Dequine Awards are presented for the best fisheries paper presentation at the Annual SEAFWA Conference in the Fall. The following 2016 winners are:

#### Runner Up, Dequine Award

Patrick O'Rourke (Georgia Power)

Title: *Movement and Growth of Wildlife Brown Trout in the Chattahoochee River below Lake Lanier, Georgia*

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Dequine Award

Jeremy T. Risley, co-authors: Ronald L. Johnson and Jeffrey W. Quinn (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission)

Title: *Evaluation of the Commercially Exploited Paddlefish Fishery in the Lower Mississippi River of the Ar-*

(Award Committee Update Continued)

*kansas*

### Outstanding Achievement Award

The 2016 Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to **J.R. Shute and Patrick Rakes of Conservation Fisheries, Incorporated** for their role in the conservation and preservation of imperiled fishes. They have been leaders in the recovery of 60 imperiled species in the eastern United States, leading to the delisting of several of these species and publication guidelines for the propagation of imperiled species.

### Best Student Sub-Unit Award

The 2016 Best student sub-unit was awarded to **North Carolina State University** for their commitment to AFS at all levels, as well as their numerous outreach and fundraising activities, monthly meetings, and communications efforts.

## Catfish Management

The SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee and the NCDAFS Ictalurid Technical Committee would like to officially announce that planning is underway for Catfish 2020: The 3rd International Catfish Symposium. The two day Symposium will be held in conjunction with the 2020 Southern Division AFS Meeting in Little Rock, AR (dates TBD), and the proceedings will be published. There is still plenty of time for researchers and managers to initiate projects for inclusion. Potential session topics may include: management, human dimensions, non-game species conservation, international catfish issues, etc. For information and updates, please visit our website: <http://catfish2020.weebly.com>

## Pollution Committee

Seeking Webmaster-Pollution Committee

Who we are: The Pollution Committee of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society is a professional association of individuals involved with or inter-

ested in the investigation, injury assessment, monetary damage assessment, and enforcement of aquatic organism mortality events caused by pollution.

Responsibilities of the webmaster:

Works with the Southern Division webmaster to develop and support a Committee webpage.

Works with Southern Division webmaster to develop and support a web-based Committee discussion board or Facebook page to provide an open forum to exchange information about pollution incidents and experience which are not routinely published in the scientific literature.

Posts Committee documents, such as approved Committee meeting minutes, bylaws, and meeting and workshop announcements, and technical links provided by Committee members on the Committee webpage.

Interested? Contact [Rebecca.OHearn@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Rebecca.OHearn@mdc.mo.gov)

## Resolution Committee

Chapters and Chapter Subunits are encouraged to submit resolutions for SDAFS membership consideration. Every fishery encompasses three essential elements: habitat, aquatic species and people. Any issue that impacts those elements may be worthy of a Division resolution. Resolutions should be sent to Dennis Riecke, Resolutions Committee Chairman [dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us](mailto:dennisr@mdwfp.state.ms.us) (w. 601-432-2207). Resolutions can be submitted at any time but they must be published in a SDAFS newsletter. Resolutions are voted on at the SDAFS Annual Business meeting.

The resolution on the Standardization of Fish Data Management which the SDAFS members adopted in Oklahoma City, OK on February 3, 2017 was sent to the AFS Resolutions Committee for consideration.

## Student Affairs Committee

Thanks to everyone for participating in the 2017 SDAFS Spring Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK! We had great student involvement including volunteering, presenting, learning, and teaching, and we will continue working to increase participation and leadership into the future. Thanks to the 20 student volunteers (see below) that assisted the OK Chapter with technical support and podcasting. These students received free shared lodging in return for their volunteer efforts, and we could not have asked for a better group of students.

Thanks again to our Student Volunteers: Zach Crum, Emily Gibson, Lauren Halbert, Hunter Hatcher, Maddie Johnson, John Perry, Haley Jenkins, Garrett Hopper, Greyson Farris, Mason Harris, Gregory Shafer, Hae Kim, Skylar Wolf, Stephen Stang, Kyler Hecke, Jason Emmel, John Lewis, Corbin Hilling, Joseph Kaiser, Zach Moran!

We had 33 students and 31 mentors participate in the Student-Mentor Luncheon. This informal gathering provides an opportunity for students to learn about a mentor's agency/university/firm and ask specific questions about career paths. The students also get a free lunch out of the deal!

We had ten students present in the Best Student Paper Symposium, and four students present in the Best Student Poster Symposium. Thirteen professional members volunteered time to judge these student presentations. Thank you to the students for presenting their undergraduate, master, and PhD projects and the judges for volunteering their time to learn and judge our student members. Best Student Presentation, Runner-Up for Best Student Presentation, and Best Student Poster are listed below:

### **Best Student Presentation**

**Adam Fox**, University of Georgia

Status of Atlantic Sturgeon in the Satilla, St. Marys and St. Johns Rivers

Coauthors: Douglas Peterson

### **Runner-up Best Student Presentation**

**Kevin R. Keretz**, Mississippi State University

Independent Effects of Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, and Swimming on Survival of Angler-Caught Largemouth Bass

Coauthor: Harold L. Schramm Jr., Colin P. Dinken, and Peter J. Allen

### **Best Student Poster**

Jessica Pease, Texas Tech University

Habitat Use and Movement Patterns of Guadalupe Bass: Contrasting Main Stem Versus Tributary Stream Populations

We have great things in the works for the upcoming SDAFS Spring Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. As past meetings, we will host the Student-Mentor Luncheon, Best Student Presentation and Poster sessions, and Student Room/Volunteer opportunities. Gus Engman, John Galvez, and I are starting early to think of other student opportunities (e.g. student-targeted workshops, socials, etc.) for the upcoming meeting. If you have an idea, please send it to me! We are open to ideas. Check out the Student Info section on the meeting website: <https://sd.fisheries.org/student-info/>

Thanks!

Nicole Rankin

Student Affairs Committee Chair

[nicolemrankin@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemrankin@gmail.com)



# Awards

## Grossman Receives Competitive Fellowship

Dr. Gary Grossman of University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources is one of twenty-six professors from the United States selected to participate in the 2017 Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute in Israel. Dr. Grossman will spend 11 days in Israel meeting with Israeli faculty conducting similar research, opening lines of communication and providing opportunities for collaboration. Be sure to congratulate Dr. Grossman when you see him!

To learn more about the 2017 Faculty Fellowship Summer Institute in Israel participants or register for the 2018 program, visit <http://www.ff2israel.org/>.

## Awards at the 2017 SDAFS Business Meeting Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

### John F. Dequine Award (2016)

The John F. Dequine Awards are presented for the best fisheries paper presentation at the annual SEAFWA Conference.

#### Runner up:

**Patrick O'Rourke** (formerly with Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, currently with Georgia Power)

*Title: "Movement and Growth of Wild Brown Trout in the Chattahoochee River below Lake Lanier, Georgia"*

Awarded a plaque and \$50 Check

#### First Place:

**Jeremy T. Risley, co-authors: Ronald L. Johnson and Jeffrey W. Quinn** (Arkansas Game and Fish Commission)

*Title: "Evaluation of the Commercially Exploited Paddlefish Fishery in the Lower Mississippi River of Arkansas"*

Awarded a plaque and \$100 check; co-authors received certificates

### Outstanding Achievement Award

**J.R. Shute and Patrick Rakes** (Conservation Fisheries, Incorporated)

Awarded for their role in the conservation and preservation of imperiled fishes. They have been leaders in

(OKC Awards Continued)

the recovery of 60 imperiled species in the eastern United States, leading to the delisting of several of these species and publication of guidelines for the propagation of imperiled species.

### Best Student Sub-Unit Award

#### North Carolina State University

Awarded for their commitment to AFS at all levels, as well as their numerous outreach and fundraising activities, monthly meetings, and communications efforts.



SDAFS Past-President Dave Coughlan presents North Carolina State University with the SDAFS Best Student Sub-Unit Award at the NCAFS Meeting in New Bern, NC.

( OKC Awards Continued)

## Committee Awards

### **Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship**

Presented by Chair of the SDAFS Reservoir Committee, Lawrence Dorsey to:

**Dray Carl** (Oklahoma State University)

Awarded a \$500 Scholarship

### **Jimmie Pigg and Melissa Coughlan Memorial Outstanding Student Achievement Award**

Presented by Chair of the SDAFS Warmwater Streams Technical Committee, Brian Alford to:

**Corey Dunn** (University of Missouri)

Awarded \$500 award and one-year complimentary AFS Membership

### **Catfish Management Committee Scholarship**

Presented by Chair of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee, Eric Ganus to:

**Zach Moran** (Arkansas Technical University)

Awarded the \$300 Scholarship for his work with blue catfish in Arkansas

### **Noreen Clough Memorial Scholarship for Females in Fisheries**

Presented by Chair of the SDAFS Black Bass Conservation Committee Gene Gilliland to:

**Whitney (Jacobs) Della Torre** (formally at the University of Georgia, now an Environmental Law Student)

Awarded \$1000 Scholarship

## Additional Awards, 2017

**Certificate of Appreciation** to **David Wellman** for his work as the Student Affairs Acting Chair at the 2016 SDAFS meeting in Wheeling, West Virginia.

### **Resolution of Appreciation to the Host Chapter (Program & Meeting Chair, Host Chapter):**

*Host Chapter:* **Oklahoma Chapter**

*General Meeting Chair:* **Kurt Kuklinski**

*Program Chair:* **Jim Long**

*Symposium Chair:* **Jason Schooley**

*Poster Chair:* **Steve O'Donnell**

*Workshop Chair:* **Dan Shoup**

*Student Affairs Chair:* **Nicole Rankin**

*Registration Chair:* **Bill Wentroth**

*Fundraising Chair:* **Ken Cunningham**

*Local Arrangements Chair:* **Barry Bolton**

*Technology Chair:* **Don Groom**

*Meeting Webmaster:* **Nathan Copeland**

## From the 2016 SDAFS Meeting in Wheeling, WV

### Best Poster Award

**Luv Viswa, co-authors: Derek Gray, David Argent, and William Kimmel** (California University of Pennsylvania)

*Title: "Does the Spiny Water Flea Dominate Communities in the Allegheny River?"*

Awarded a plaque and \$50 check; co-authors received certificates

### Best Student Presentation Award

#### Second Place:

**Edward Stowe, co-author: Douglas Peterson** (University of Georgia)

*Title: "Using Side-Scan Sonar to Assess the Atlantic Sturgeon Spawning Run in the Altamaha River"*

Awarded a plaque and \$50 Check; co-author received a certificate

#### First Place:

**Alex Cummins, co-authors: Adam Fox, Chris Kalinowsky, Richard Chandler, Matt Streich, Douglas Peterson** (University of Georgia)

*Title: "Seasonal Movements and Annual Mortality Rates of Tripletail (*Lobotes surinamensis*) in the Southeast"*

Awarded a plaque and \$100 check; co-authors received certificates



SDAFS President Dave Coughlan (far left) poses for a photo with members of the Oklahoma Chapter during the 2017 SDAFS Meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.



## Contributed Article

### Redefining Field Work: Saw Search 2017

By: Kelcee L. Smith and Annmarie Fearing

As fisheries biologists, summer time means it's the height of field season. We've spent our winter time analyzing and writing up last year's data and are eager to get back out on the water. Our sense of excitement is renewed by even simple tasks like loading gear into the truck, launching the boat for the first time, or hauling the first set back. This is the season we've been waiting for.

But, what if your field work didn't take you to the water? What if, instead, it took you to the depths of a natural history museum or to someone's garage? What if you could find the data you were looking for right in your hometown?

Two graduate students, Kelcee Smith (Ph.D. Candidate – LSU) and Annmarie Fearing (Master's Student – USM), are doing just that. In order to answer questions for their research, these scientists are taking advantage of historical specimens that museum curators and private collectors have taken

the time to preserve.

Both Smith and Fearing are interested in how genetic diversity has changed over time in the highly endangered sawfishes (Family Pristidae). To understand temporal changes, both current and historical genetic samples are needed for analysis. This is where museums come in. Historical DNA can often be successfully extracted from dried saws (rostra) held in museums. Because rostra are dried and not stored in formalin like most fish, DNA is less degraded, making them more usable in the lab. These methods provide a good way of comparing historic and present diversity in sawfish species.

Kelcee is working with samples from smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), a species primarily found in southwestern Florida today. The population has been listed as endangered since 2003 under the Endangered Species Act, due to fishing mortality and habitat loss. She is interested in how genetic diversity has changed over time in this population, especially since recent research has indicated no bottleneck in the population, despite population decline. This research is important for the recovery of this species since



Ph.D. Candidate Kelcee L. Smith of Louisiana State University holds a smalltooth sawfish rostrum from the Milwaukee Public Museum. Research conducted under ESA Permit #17787

small populations often face a greater risk of extinction due to reduced genetic diversity. If results indicate that there has been significant loss of genetic diversity over time, then management efforts will need to focus on increasing the number and variety of individuals that survive to breed. Conversely, if genetic diversity has been stable over time, then management efforts can ad-

(Saw Search 2017 Continued)

dress other priorities such as minimizing harvest, enhancing/protecting habitat, and increasing public awareness and participation in smalltooth sawfish recovery.

Annmarie is working on largetooth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*). Of the five sawfish species, largetooth sawfish are the only circumglobal sawfish species, with stronghold populations occurring in northern Australia. Recent studies have shown that these populations have gone through a genetic bottleneck and Fearing is collecting samples from historic sawfish rostra from sawfish captured from around the globe in order to when the bottleneck oc-

curred. Comparing genetic diversity of largetooth sawfish populations from about 100 years ago to those of today will not only allow for understanding of genetic diversity over time, but also the ability to quantify declines in abundance sustained by this species. If the levels of genetic diversity in historic largetooth sawfish populations are similar to those in contemporary populations, then the survival outlook for this species may be good. Under this scenario, recovery plans can focus on habitat restoration and protection. However, if the levels of genetic diversity in historic populations are higher when compared to contemporary popula-

tions, then protecting the remaining genetic diversity should be a high priority for conservation and management plans.

Fearing and Smith are planning their field work for July and it will be their biggest trip yet. Despite having visited hundreds of museums throughout the southeast, the early career scientists will be adventuring into some of the

biggest museums in the country, including: the Smithsonian, Yale, Cornell, and others. They've left no stone unturned and will also be visiting smaller museums and private collectors.

Ever considered using a museum as a data resource? Maybe you should. Museums in the United States hold over a billion objects, accessible to a variety of researchers and scientists. These objects, meticulously catalogued by museum curators, are a gold mine for those of us interested in historical research. As scientists, we should continue to find ways to incorporate museum specimens as well as museum communities into our research. As members of the public, we should continue to support all our museums for the preservation that they bring to our culture and the information they lend our scientists.

Have you seen a saw? Contact Kelcee Smith ([ksmi295@lsu.edu](mailto:ksmi295@lsu.edu)) or Annmarie Fearing ([ann.fearing@usm.edu](mailto:ann.fearing@usm.edu)) or follow their adventure on Instagram and Twitter with **#SawSearch2017**.



Master's student Annmarie Fearing (right) and advisor Dr. Nicole Phillips (left) of University of Southern Mississippi hold a dried rostrum

## Publications

Hyman, Amanda A., Steve L. McMullin, and Vic DiCenzo. "Dispelling Assumptions about Stocked-Trout Fisheries and Angler Satisfaction." *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 36.6 (2016): 1395-1404.

**Abstract:** We investigated three assumptions about stocked-trout fisheries: (1) stocking densities (trout/km or trout/ha) correlate with angler catch rates, (2) catch rates decline with time after stocking, and (3) angler satisfaction correlates with catch rates. We interviewed 5,689 anglers on 14 put-and-take trout waters in Virginia from October 2013 to May 2014 and from October 2014 to May 2015 to assess their fishing effort for stocked trout, catch, and level of satisfaction with their fishing experience that day. Stocking density did not affect the stocked-trout catch rate on streams or lakes, and catch rates remained relatively constant from the day after stocking up to 1 month after stocking. The type of water body affected both angler effort and catch rate. We found that catch rates above thresholds (0.46 trout/angler-hour on lakes; 1.21 trout/angler-hour on streams) had minor effects on angler satisfaction, but below those threshold values, satisfaction increased greatly with increasing catch rates on both lakes and streams. Given the concerns over increasing costs to maintain stocking programs, our results suggest that agencies could reduce their stocking densities and frequencies without appreciably reducing angler satisfaction.

Hyman, Amanda A., Vic J. DiCenzo, and Brian R. Murphy. "Muddling management: heterogeneity of blue catfish anglers." *Lake and Reservoir Management* (2017): 1-9.

**Abstract:** A world-record blue catfish was caught from Kerr Reservoir in 2011; since then, the state has experienced an influx of tournaments and trophy anglers. As a result, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has sought a holistic management approach for the blue catfish fishery. In a pilot study, we surveyed 61 catfish anglers on Kerr Reservoir, which spans the Virginia–North Carolina state line, to examine their angling habits, harvest behavior, and management preferences. Using hierarchical cluster analysis, we identified 4 distinct angler groups that, on a broad scale, parallel other specialization studies: Tournament Specialists, Consumptive Specialists, Avid Generalists, and Occasional Anglers. Results from this study depict a dualistic angler population, with many anglers seeking trophy catfish while others wish to harvest many catfish. The most-specialized anglers had a tendency to support stricter harvest limits and setline regulations, whereas the least-specialized opposed stricter regulations. With such polarized attitudes, we suggest that VDGIF and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission work with anglers to avoid disputes regarding gear and harvest regulations in the future. Specifically, we suggest state agencies test the use of spatial regulation of setlines (i.e., the agencies limit setline use in portions of the reservoir). Results from this research could help fisheries managers regulate trophy fisheries by understanding their anglers and in turn help to set management goals and objectives that best meet the desires of their stakeholders.

## Southern Division

### American Fisheries Society

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