

NEWSLETTER

TEXAS CHAPTER
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Number 28

August 1983

EXCOM REPORT

The EXCOM met at Southwest Texas State University, July 8 1983. Attending were Don Steinbach, Maury Ferguson, Gary Matlock, Joe Tomasso, Dick Luebke, Brian Murphy, Bobby Whiteside, Billy Higginbotham, and Don Lusk.

Billy Higginbotham (nominating committee) reported that his committee had received no nominations yet. The EXCOM decided that the nominating committee should nominate members themselves.

Bobby Whiteside (membership committee) reported that the Fisheries Worker's Directory had been updated through June and a final copy sent to Dick Luebke for inclusion in the proceedings. It was decided to print the directory as a separate entity every two years for distribution to members and contributors.

Brian Murphy (Farm Pond Management Committee) reported that his committee had come up with a brief outline of direction for a new Pond Evaluation Manual. He would like to get comments and input from the membership at the annual meeting.

Dick Luebke (editorial committee) reported that the final copy of the Proceedings is ready to go to A&M for printing.

Clell Guest (contributions committee) reported by letter that announcement notices of the annual meeting had been sent to over 100 possible contributors. His committee is working on a membership brochure detailing the Chapter's goals and activities. It is hoped that this brochure will help move fisheries related workers, especially fish farmers, to understand what AFS has to offer them.

Jimmy Dean (publicity committee) reported by phone that notices of the annual meeting had been sent to over 40 outdoors writers.

Gary Matlock (meeting program) reported on the program schedule printed elsewhere in this newsletter. The EXCOM decided to pay \$300 to defray travel expenses for Tom McIlwain, one of the invited speakers. TPWD is paying travel expenses for another speaker and part of Dr. McIlwain's. Texas A&M paid most of the expenses for the invited speaker last year. The proceedings will be a joint publication with the Oklahoma chapter. Details will be decided after communication with Oklahoma. The panel discussion will be taped and a volunteer is needed to transcribe the tapes for the proceedings.

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

1983 Joint Meeting of the Texas and Oklahoma Chapters of the American Fisheries Society, September 16th and 17th at the University of Oklahoma's Biological Station on Lake Texoma.

1. Lodging: (\$5.50 each per night) for _____ person(s). _____ male
 _____ female _____ couple _____ children
 Thursday (15th) _____
 Friday (16th) _____ TOTAL \$ _____

NO bed linens, blankets, or pillows are provided. Bring drinking glasses, soap, towels, etc.

2. Meals: (\$2.80 breakfast, \$2.85 lunch, \$4.00 dinner, \$5.50 social and meal)
 Thursday dinner _____
 Friday breakfast _____
 lunch _____
 dinner _____
 Saturday breakfast _____
 lunch _____ TOTAL \$ _____

3. Camper or travel trailer space and hook-ups
 (\$2.00 per night) TOTAL \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Please return this form and check payable to U.O.B.S. by September 1st, 1983 to:

TEXOMA A.F.S. Meeting
 c/o U.O.B.S., 730 Van Vleet Oval
 University of Oklahoma
 Norman, OK 73019

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation: _____

NOTE: Rooms are limited, especially for couples and families; reservations made on a first come - first served basis.

Accommodations at the Biological Station

September 16-17, 1983

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration - All persons attending the meeting are requested to register in advance by completing and mailing the Registration Form before 1 September. Advanced registration will allow the local committee to plan transportation and housing to serve you best. Remember to make checks payable to the University of Oklahoma Biological Station and NOT to TX or AFS.

Social Events - A beer and Bar-B-Que (probably - may be something else) social will be held on Friday evening and will cost \$5.50 per person. There are no bars or restaurants serving alcoholic beverages near the Station - B.Y.O.B..

Communications - The Biological station mailing address is: Star Route B, Kingston, Oklahoma 73439. The telephone service is through Kingston. The telephone number is 405/564-2463. All correspondence prior to the meeting should be addressed to TEXOMA A.F.S. Meeting, Biological Station, University of Oklahoma, 730 Van Vleet Oval, Norman, Oklahoma 73019.

Information on the program or accommodations may be obtained from the Biological Station office in Norman at the above address (Telephone: 405/325-5391).

Lodging - Housing at the Station is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The price for rooms is \$5.50 each per night and this does not include linens, blankets, towels, etc. Bedding such as sheets, pillowcases, blankets, towels and washclothes must be furnished by the occupants. Also, occupants must bring drinking glasses, soap, etc.

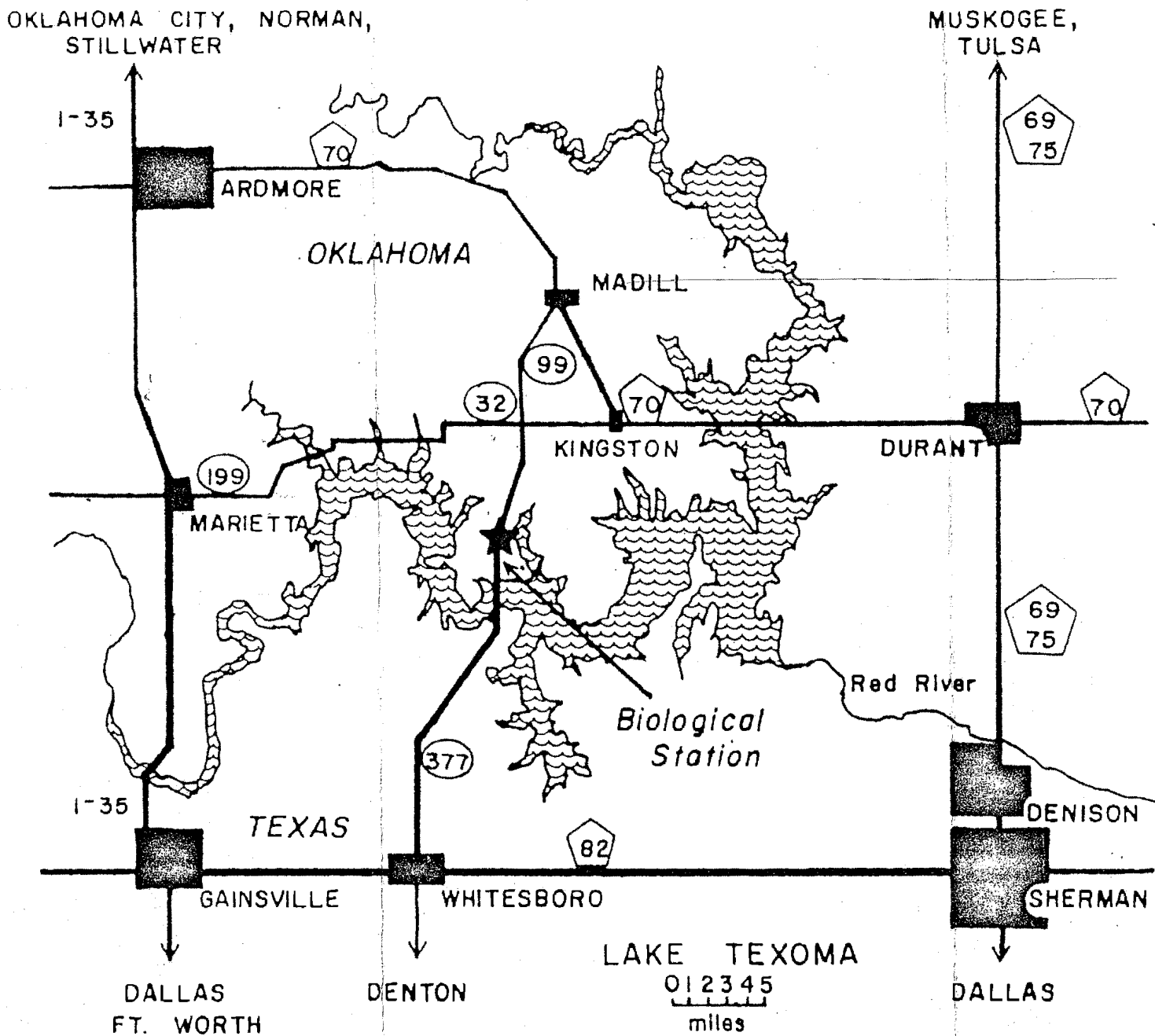
Only a few apartments for couples and families are available and such groups should plan on camping or staying at motels. Motels are available, but none are immediately adjacent to the meeting. Reservations at motels must be made directly by registrants. Rates usually average \$11.00 - \$16.00 for a single room, except at Texoma Lodge where "luxury" prices prevail.

Location of UOBS - See map on next page.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM
TX - OK AFS MEETING

<u>Friday, September 16</u>	12:00 pm - 6:00 pm
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Registration
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Business Meetings of Chapters
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Panel Discussion
	"Striped bass and striped bass hybrid research and management in Texas and Oklahoma"
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Break
6:00 pm - ?	Barbecue (probably) and beer dinner and social

<u>Saturday, September 17</u>	
8:30 am - 10:30 am	Technical Session Papers
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am - 12:45 pm	Technical Session Papers



ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA BIOLOGICAL STATION

LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

Please send nominations for the 1983-1984 president-elect and secretary-elect to Billy Higginbotham, P.O. Box 38, Overton, TX 75684 (214-834-6191). Nominations may also be sent to Ray Drenner, Frank Sprague, or Chuck Mulford.

LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

This is the last of two notices that will be given seeking nominations of individuals for awards as Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year. There are five categories for these awards. They are as follows:

- (1) Culture
- (2) Management
- (3) Research
- (4) Education
- (5) Special (member or non-member)

All nominees must be members in-good-standing of the Texas Chapter, except in the Special category. A qualified nominee who has previously been nominated or received an award, regardless of category, can still be nominated. A nominee can receive only one award each year.

FARM POND STOCKINGS PUBLICATION

The Farm Pond Stocking Committee is currently preparing a publication "Assessment Techniques for Small Ponds". Please review the following proposed outline for the publication. This is a chapter - sponsored project so chapter-wide comments are needed. Send any comments to Brian Murphy (chairman), Billy Higginbotham, Charlie Inman, Bob Lusk, Rich Noble, Gary Valentine or Mike Zeman. Time will be available on the annual meeting agenda to discuss the project.

Assessment Techniques for Small Ponds

- I. Identification of fish species found in Texas ponds (text and line drawings)
- II. Species composition
 - A. Are gar, crappie, flathead catfish, bowfin, carp or buffalo present in large numbers (based on fishermen catches or other observation)? If so, consider total renovation.
 - B. Are bluegill sunfish and largemouth bass present?
 1. Shoreline seining
 2. Hook-and-line
 - C. Are channel catfish present?

III. Assessment of Population Structure

A. Shoreline seining

1. Technique
 - a. Perform in June, July, August
 - b. Use seine 20 ft x 4 ft, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mesh
 - c. Three shoreline hauls (diagram)
2. Interpretation
 - a. If no young bass captured, and ...
 - i. Many newly hatched sunfish, many 3-5" sunfish -- Crowded bass population is in temporary balance
 - ii. No newly hatched sunfish, many 3-5" sunfish -- Sunfish overcrowded, very few bass
 - iii. No sunfish -- No forage in pond
 - b. If young bass captured, and ...
 - i. Many newly hatched sunfish, few 3-5" sunfish -- Balanced population
 - ii. Many new hatched sunfish, no 3-5" sunfish -- Balanced population, bass tending toward overcrowding
 - iii. No sunfish -- No forage in pond (especially if small bass are also caught easily on hook-and-line)
3. Pros and Cons
 - a. Easy and Inexpensive
 - b. May be difficult in deep or weedy ponds
 - c. Samples mainly young-of-the-year

B. General Composition of Fishermen's Catch

1. Catch 3-5" bluegill, few bass but large in size -- Unbalanced population, bluegill overcrowded
2. Catch only bluegill over 6", bass less than 12" -- Unbalanced population, bass overcrowded
3. Catch 6" bluegill regularly, bass average 12-16" -- Balanced population
4. Catch only bass, most small and easily caught -- No forage or forage is deficient

C. Detailed catch records

1. Hours fished, number of fish caught, sizes of fish
2. Gives valuable information for management
3. Difficult to get accurate compliance

- 4. Best limited to dependable anglers that fish regularly
- 5. Must encourage proper fishing for both bass and bluegill to get representative sample
- 6. Could use fishermen's records to calculate percentage size distribution (PSD)

Ideal Bass PSD = Approximately one bass of quality size (12") for each bass of reproductive size (between 8" and 12")

Ideal Bluegill PSD= Approximately eight bluegill of quality size (6") for every two bluegill of prey size (between 3" and 6"). Forage needs may be higher in clear ponds than in turbid ponds.

D. Harvest Recommendations (From R. O. Anderson, Missouri Cooperative Fishery Research Unit)

1. Bass and Bluegill

Angling PSD (%)		Harvest Recommendations
Largemouth Bass	Bluegills	
Less than 20	More than 80	Harvest more bass less than 12 inches long; protect bluegills by catch and release.
More than 60	Less than 50	Harvest more bluegills; protect all bass
20-60	Less than 50	Harvest more bluegills; protect bass 12 to 16 inches long
Less than 20	50-80	Harvest more bass less than 12 inches long; protect bass 12 to 16 inches long
20-60	50-80	Balanced populations; maintain harvest routine, or protect bass 12 to 16 inches long.

2. Channel Catfish

Initial stocking 150/acre. If non-reproducing, restock 75-100/acre when records show that 50% of the initial stocking has been caught. Accurate records are a necessity.

OBITUARY

Dr. Patricia Johansen died in May in Pennsylvania after a lengthy illness. P.J. was Secretary to the Chapter in 1980-1981 and was an employee of the Coastal Fisheries Branch of TPWD. Contributions in her memory have been sent to the AFS Permanent Home Building Fund. We will miss P.J.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

This newsletter was mailed about two weeks ahead of schedule to allow more time to register for the annual meeting. The next newsletter will be prepared in November. Anyone wishing to include news or announcements in the November newsletter, please send to Joe Tomasso by November 1, 1983 (Aquatic Station, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, 78666). Randy Palachek has been helping prepare the newsletters this year.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (1983-1984)

Enclosed please find _____ \$5.00 (regular) or _____ \$4.00 (student) for my 1983-84 Texas Chapter AFS Membership dues.

Name : _____ Phone No.: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation: _____

Fishery Interests: _____

Make check payable to Texas Chapter - AFS

Mail check and application form to:

Maury Ferguson
11603 Autumn Ridge Drive
Austin, Texas 78759