



President's message

by George Guillen

I hope all our members and their families had a great summer! Although many parts of Texas are still feeling the wrath of the 2011 drought year, at least this year we have had a few rainstorms here and there. The recent droughts and ongoing discussion about climate change and its ultimate impact on Texas aquatic ecosystems, both freshwater and marine, is a hot topic and something we as a profession will have to deal with in the future. New buzz words have emerged in the last 5-10 years like "resiliency", "ecosystem services" that attempt to define metrics that professionals and the lay public can understand. Unfortunately, securing funding for basic and applied research that supports fisheries science that can inform management and the public is still an ongoing difficult challenge. This situation will likely not change in the near future but will require the concerted effort of our profession to address these new problems brought about by having to deal with management and conservation of ecosystems in rapidly changing landscapes.

Some of us have been involved with recent attempts to develop environmental flow standards for freshwater and marine ecosystems in Texas through the Senate Bill 3 process. This program had a very ambitious timeline and required making some very important recommendations with sometimes next to nothing in terms of data. Like many others who survived this process and participated in this effort, we as fisheries biologists and managers quickly realize that we are but part of a much larger administrative and legal network of professionals who are also working on the project and dealing with uncertainty (e.g. hydrologists, engineers etc). I have found out that not having enough data is often not the major problem, but rather navigating the different value that is placed on various forms scientific evidence (e.g. best available science) and comfort level that various professions have and exhibit in the face of uncertainty and lack of data. These "human factors" that are often overlooked when planning new programs, is often the primary obstacle to reaching consensus and informed decision making. Individual and collective differences in perceptions of acceptable risk and scientific evidence are often the greatest obstacle to decision making. We as fisheries biologists must recognize these differences in order to effectively work on multidisciplinary teams tasked with addressing critical conservation issues.

A lot of neat stuff is happening this year at TCAFS. We have seen some important changes in our Committees including the "retirement" of our longtime Awards Committee Chair Dr. Matt Chumchal. We greatly thank him for the great job he and his committee members have done.

Save the date!

TCAFS Annual Meeting

January 17 -19, 2013

***La Torretta Lake Resort
and Spa on Lake Conroe***

***"Large Rivers and
Impoundments: Concepts
and Challenges"***

We are fortunate though because even though Matt is stepping down, he has left us in good hands. We look forward to working with the new Chair, Dave Buzan.

Some other important issues and projects that members of the TCAFS EXCOM and Committee's have been working this year include:

1. TCAFS now has some new bylaws! Thanks to the dedication of our Past President Craig Bonds and those who assisted him, we now up to date bylaws that reflects our current organizational composition and updated our long outdated bylaws. It should be on our web site.
2. Something that has been developing on the back burner is the our efforts to support the Parent Society's effort to acquire, organize and compile "gray literature" and associated data that state and federal agencies and other organizations have generated over many years. Fortunately as time progresses agencies have started to maintain electronic versions of new reports and are "scanning" over old reports etc. over to PDF format or some kind of electronic format. Unfortunately, many of the "oldies but goodies" are difficult to find, especially for new professionals in field, and/or folks not working in an agency. For example, I recently had to call my first boss I worked for at TPWD back in the 1980's to locate some old obscure Dingell-Johnson reports. Fortunately he still had information to help me. Two months later I had to contact a fellow academic, who apparently had the one remaining copy of an old technical report on lower Brazos River biota and water quality from back in the 1990's. Unfortunately, I have had some bad luck too. I was trying to acquire the raw data associated with an old report I coauthored back in my agency days. Apparently the raw data has disappeared or was thrown out with the old diskettes. Remember floppies? Remember 3.5 inch diskettes? If you have any unique stuff on them, better transfer them soon!

Although old reports are invaluable, the raw data they contain often represent the only historical information on the way things were in parts of our state. They provide us with a snapshot, albeit imperfect, of what we may have already lost. I encourage everyone to participate in this effort, especially if you know you have one of those rare articles or one-of-a-kind short memos describing an old investigation. Also consider mining (extracting) the data contained in these reports for use by others. It is tedious and time-consuming but can be rewarding when you can actually use this to document changes. Please contact me if you are interested in participating.

3. The EXCOM, Awards and Student Outreach Committees are considering expanded student support for travel to professional meetings. TCAFS often gets requests to assist our fellow units in AFS. One way we can do this is by encouraging our members to attend Division and Parent Society meetings. Obviously in these days of limited state budgets and cuts in travel funds this can be problematic. So, we are looking at ways, albeit small, that TCAFS can assist students through awards to participate and travel to these meetings. Stay tuned for more on this.
4. With the support of the EXCOM, our Endowment Chair Dave Terre, is investigating and exploring new ways to maximize our Chapter investments. Through the wise management of our past leadership, and Dave, we have been very successful at safeguarding and growing our investments.
5. Finally we have also doing some fun things. The EXCOM is working with some key members trying to put together a new chapter "logo" that we will soon debut to the membership for review and approval. We think it will be liked by all and more importantly "representative" of our membership and pride! Stay tuned.

Oh, there are a couple of announcements and recommendations I would like to make.

While attending the AFS Parent Society meeting this year I met with several members involved with the publication of *Standard Methods for Sampling North American Freshwater Fishes*. They had a booth at which they previewed a new online database that will be extremely useful to folks planning new studies. The program will allow you to search out similar studies nearby and compare your data, as long as you follow a standard method, with regional and watershed averages and percentiles for population parameters, density, lengths etc. It will also allow you to contribute to building the database if you wish. Stay tuned for this. There should be

something released in one of the AFS newsletters or magazines with the official version debuts.

Speaking of publications, the AFS *Telemetry Techniques: a user guide for fisheries research* has just been released and it's available on their web site at <http://afsbooks.org/55068C>.

Finally, I want to highly recommend an article, which provides a very unique view and explanation of what is wrong and right about our method of managing our rivers and watersheds. It also does a wonderful job of providing a history lesson on water management and our democratic form of government. Very interesting reading during the political election season. The article is:

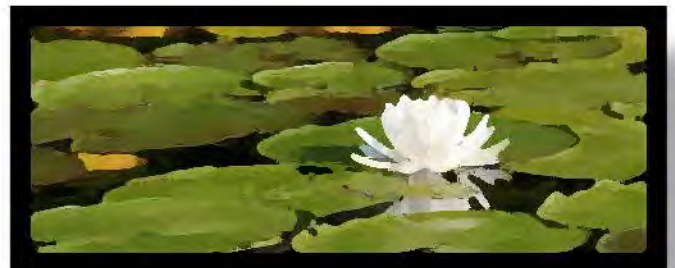
Doyle, M. 2012. America's Rivers and the American Experiment. Journal of the American Water Resources Association. August 2012 Vol. 48 (4): 820-837. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1752-1688.2012.00652.x/abstract>

Wishing everyone a "cooler" fall season!

President-elect's message

by Richard Ott

Likely all of our membership at one time or another in their education was exposed to Aldo Leopold's book *Sand County Almanac*. It was likely required reading for anyone expecting a career in resource management or resource science. If you haven't read it lately I suggest you take the time to read it again and recharge your emotional, philosophical, and spiritual batteries. In his book Leopold promotes the concept of stewardship as it relates to anyone given the power of influencing a resource. I say influencing because stewardship is not limited to management, or study of that resource, it can also relate to exploitation of that resource. Leopold writes "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." In the fisheries field we frequently manage/influence resources that do not belong to us. It may be the natural resource (the animals, the plants, the land, the water) or it may be the finances entrusted to us by the people who utilize those resources for us to use to study, improve, or protect those resources. It can also be the truth revealed by scientific study. In the few cases where we do actually own the land or water we only do so for only a limited time before the stewardship is passed on to another. Furthermore, because we are stewards of resources that others have an interest in, but likely lack our understanding of, we sometimes need to make decisions that disappoint one part of our constituency while at same time benefiting another. As is human nature, we are more likely to endure the criticism of the group that is disappointed rather than the accolades of the group that is benefitted. This is part of the burden we endure in doing the "right" thing. In that way, stewardship is not always easy; it can be difficult, tiring, dirty, and can involve significant personal sacrifice. However, it can also be enormously fulfilling if we remember what is at stake. Leopold defines what is at stake with the quote "The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: 'What good is it?'" If we are not the stewards, who will be? In that way we can consider the great honor and responsibility bestowed on each and every one of us who is a resource steward. When I look at the membership of Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society I see a group of people who are impassioned enough to embrace the mantle of stewardship. They exhibit that passion in ways as complex as developing policy statements regarding natural resource issues to educate our governmental leaders. They also exhibit in ways as simple as answering the phone at 4:59 on the Friday before a holiday weekend to answer the question of a constituent. Many also exhibit that passion in their service to or stewardship of the society itself; our society is only as good as the actions of our membership. If we all do more than our share and take less than our share there will be a surplus and our society and our stewardship of fisheries resources will thrive.



Student sub-units wanted

by Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson

A little over a year ago I wrote a newsletter article about the benefits of chartering an AFS student sub-unit at your school. I would like to cover that topic again now that the fall 2012 semester has begun. Now is a great time to gather up your fellow fisheries students and form a new club for your own professional development.

Currently the Texas Chapter of American Fisheries Society has two student sub-units: Texas A & M, and Texas Tech. These sub-units function as clubs on their respective campuses, electing officers, holding meetings and socials, and sending representatives to the annual Texas Chapter meeting. As a charter member of the Texas Tech sub-unit, I can vouch for how much fun it is, and also how valuable it is as a career-advancing activity.



Even though there are only the two active student sub-units right now, we all know that there are many other enthusiastic fisheries students in Texas at many other schools. We see them giving excellent presentations at the Texas Chapter meeting every year. I'm here to try and convince you guys (you know who you are) to take the next step in professional development, and form a new student sub-unit on your campus.

Being part of a student sub-unit has many benefits. One is the opportunity to develop leadership skills through being an elected officer. Another is the built-in networking aspect of being an official unit of American Fisheries Society; we all know how important networking can be to finding the perfect job. If your university distributes activity funds to official campus organizations, your student sub-unit may be able to tap into those for things like travel to AFS meetings, inviting speakers from across the country to your school, or holding an outreach event. As long as you've got a faculty member and six or more students (undergrads or grad students) who are interested, there's no reason not to form your own student sub-unit!

The American Fisheries Society constitution spells out how to form a new student sub-unit. The following was pulled directly from Article 5 of that document:

- iii. STUDENT SUBUNITS are defined by academic institutions and are maintained under the auspices of Chapters. They are intended to advance the Society's objectives through involvement of student members at the level of colleges and universities.
 - a) A petition to create a Student Subunit must be signed by at least 6 Active Members and an AFS member faculty advisor at the University or College. Formation of a Student Subunit shall be overseen by the Chapter within whose geographical boundaries it occurs.
 - b) The Student Subunit operates under the auspices of the Chapter within whose geographical boundaries it occurs.
2. A new unit or student subunit becomes official when the following conditions have been met.
 - A. Its petition for recognition, clearly defining its intended purpose and its geographic or disciplinary boundaries, and signed by the number of Active Members specified in Article V. 1. has been approved by the membership at an annual or special meeting; a Chapter petition also must be approved by the officers of the Division in which the new Chapter may reside; a student subunit petition also must be approved by the officers of the Chapter in which the new subunit will reside.
 - B. Its bylaws have been approved by the Governing Board for conformity with the Society's Constitution, Rules and Procedures.
 - C. It has elected a slate of officers as specified in Article V. 3. and reported it to the Executive

Director.

- D. In the case of a Section, it has demonstrated at least 50 membership pledges.
- E. The Executive Director has notified the unit president in writing that the unit's petition, bylaws, and elections have been approved. The letter date is the unit's founding date.

If you would like more information on how to get started in this process, contact me. I would be more than happy to help!

Mandy Scott
Texas Chapter AFS Student Outreach Chair
(325) 651-5556
mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us

Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday

by Michele Nations

Lunker Dave Has Retired!

David Campbell has retired from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after 46 years. David was hired as a fish hatchery assistant back in 1965 and then became the hatchery manager at the Tyler Fish Hatchery in 1973. In 1975, he signed up as one of the first members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

During his career, David enjoyed working with a variety of species that included black bass, striped bass, palmetto bass, peacock bass, blue and channel catfish, crappie, several types of sunfish, northern pike, and walleye, as well as some forage species to keep his bass happy.

But David knew that managing our state's fisheries is a team effort between



management and hatchery crews, and it seems like David was always interested in helping the fishermen enjoy their time on the water. The state record for bass was 13.5 pounds set in 1943, but that was before David Campbell (aka "Godfather of Big Bass") started looking for ways to improve Texas fisheries. In fact, he traveled all the way to Florida to pick up some Florida largemouth bass in order to try culturing the species for experimental stocking. With encouragement from TPWD Fisheries Director Bob Kemp, David worked toward increasing the size of trophy bass throughout Texas. Little did he know that his real success would come in the form of a fish named "Ethel." In November 1986, Ethel was pulled out of Lake Fork by Mark Stevenson. She weighed a whopping 17.67 pounds. She was taken to the Tyler Hatchery where David's dedication and perseverance enabled him to fight to keep Ethel alive. The ShareLunker program was born.



The ShareLunker program brought nationwide attention to Texas and its big bass when Ethel was put on display at Bass Pro Shops in Springfield, Missouri. The effect snowballed as Ethel and David's fame grew. David shared his understanding of how to treat and keep large bass alive once caught with anyone who wanted to learn. He was seen on television and in

workshops, written about in newspapers and magazines, and his voice heard on the radio. His passion for his work was always present. His enthusiasm was evident when he was called upon to pick up an entry into the

program, and it didn't matter how many hours he had put in that day, from the first fish in 1986 and to most of the ones since then.

But there's more! People caught onto the idea that catch-and-release was possible and that it allowed for the spawning of the big bass and distribution of the offspring throughout the state. Then there was the construction of a state-of-the-art hatchery, ShareLunker care and breeding facility, visitor center and Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, which was finished in 1996.

Before and at his retirement party on April 19th, David was "roasted" by only good comments from those who have known him through out the years: "David Campbell and the ShareLunker program are almost synonymous," said Gary Saul, director of TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division. "He is without doubt the number one ambassador for the ShareLunker program, which is TPWD's most highly visible program, gaining more media coverage annually than all other TPWD programs combined. To hundreds of anglers and the public, Campbell is Mr. ShareLunker."



"David Campbell has been one of the most dedicated employees of TPWD I have ever worked with," said Allen Forshage, director of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, where the ShareLunker program is headquartered. "His work ethic is legendary within TPWD. Few people have so completely and selflessly dedicated their lives to making fishing better for the anglers of Texas as David has. Every big bass caught from a Texas reservoir is part of his legacy."

Campbell is untiringly modest about his achievements, preferring to give credit for his success to others. "What stands out more than anything else from the 26 years of the ShareLunker program is the cooperation from the anglers," he said. "Anglers have been very supportive of the program. They have learned how to care for their big fish, and they understand the objective of the program is to increase the number of trophy bass caught in Texas. If you don't have the support of the people using the sport fishery itself, you haven't accomplished anything."

Here are a few of the highlights from his work at TPWD:

1965--Employed by TPWD at the Lewisville State Fish Hatchery

1968--Transferred to Tyler Fish Hatchery

1973--Promoted to manager of the Tyler Fish Hatchery

1973--Traveled to Florida to bring back Florida largemouth bass for rearing and experimental stocking

1986--Picked up ShareLunker No. 1

1989--Held workshops in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana teaching how to culture Florida bass

1995--Texas Black Bass Unlimited, President's Conservationist Award

1996--Transferred to Ed Cox, Jr., Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens as hatchery manager and ShareLunker program coordinator

1999--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Employee Recognition Award, Special Achievements

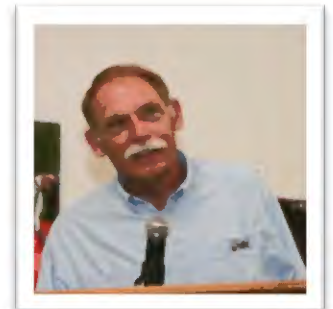
2005--Office of the Governor of Texas, Certificate of Appreciation for 40 years of public service

2010--Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 45-year Service Award

2011—Inducted into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame

To see the video of his induction into the Hall of Fame and his comments, check out the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyxYN1zly20&feature=youtu.be>



Thanks David, for a job well done!

[Quotations from the TPWD March 19, 2012 Press Release, early photos donated by Mickie Campbell, recent photos with quotations taken by Michele Nations.]



Texas Chapter AFS Business Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2012 Snook, Texas
by Robert Mauk, Secretary Treasurer

Attending in person: George Guillen, Craig Bonds, Rick Ott, Robert Mauk, Debbie Wade, Jacob Garcia (TAMU Student Subunit President), and Matthew Hitt (TAMU Student Subunit President-Elect)
Attending remotely via iLinc: Dan Daughtery, Greg Conley, John Taylor, Michelle Nations, and Dave Terre.

Secretary Treasurer's report: (Robert Mauk)

- The Chapter's cash account balance as of the EXCOM meeting was \$12,001.38.
- After the annual meeting bills were paid, \$15,140.69 was moved into the endowment fund from the cash account.
- First of the year income from the annual meeting was \$24,964.75 and expenses for the meeting came to \$17,069.25.

President-Elect's report: (Rick Ott)

- Discussed planning for the 2013 TCAFS annual meeting and is still looking at locations.
- Inquiries were made into having a joint meeting with Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma AFS chapters but for various reasons it was determined that the timing was not good.
- Currently exploring possible meeting locations at La Torretta Lake Resort & Spa on Lake Conroe or at TFFC in Athens.
- Tentative dates for meeting are January 17-10 or January 24-26, 2013.

Past President's report: (Craig Bonds)

- The Texas Chapter of the AFS approved the by-laws revision at the annual meeting at Galveston.
- The by-laws revision then went before the Southern Division EXCOM who also approved them.
- The by-laws will go to the Parent Society for the Governing Board to vote on.

President's report: (George Guillen)

- Discussed his support of the AFS initiative of making gray literature accessible to all by uploading it to a website.
- Much discussion occurred of what it would take for TCAFS to participate in the project and how to collect the information from all of the agencies and institutions that have gray literature.
- It was decided much more information is needed on the process of uploading to the website and who would be able to access information, among other things.
- It was decided that we need more information and an ad-hoc committee should be formed to recommend how to proceed.

Texas A & M Student Subunit President's report: (Jacob Garcia)

- Jacob reported that after a few years of inactivity, the Texas A&M Student Subunit has been active again for the past two years and currently has 15 members and are trying to recruit new members.
- Drs. Fran Gelwick and Delbert Gatlin are co-faculty sponsors of the subunit.
- The subunit plans on holding a fishing tournament for under-privileged youth soon.

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- Craig suggested they host guest lecturers in the fisheries field to boost interest in the subunit.

Committee Reports:

Membership Churn Ad-hoc Committee (Debbie Wade)

- The ad-hoc committee was formed to address the issue of membership churn and Listserv updates. The issue is members churn/lapse and need reminders to renew. We need to identify lapsed members and actively recruit them (i.e. remind them) to renew. We also need to identify potentially new members and recruit them.
- Another issue is the Listserv email list fails to communicate with all members because of churn. It was suggested that members are not dropped as quickly from the Listserv email list and be given a grace period prior to dropping from the list.
- Discussion was held on how the parent society handles this problem and is there anything they are doing that could be adopted at the local level.
- Further investigations by the committee will be conducted and recommendations will be made at our next EXCOM meeting in July.

Awards (Matt Chumchal via George Guillen)

- The 2012 annual meeting went well from the awards committee perspective. They presented awards in six categories.
- Matt wanted to thank the many volunteers at the meeting who helped with presentation judging and reported that it went smoothly.
- Matt reported that Award recipients along with a summary of their nomination letter appeared in the last newsletter.
- Matt reported that at the meeting the awards committee presented special recognition awards to recognize the efforts of 10 individuals belonging to 3 organizations (Texas Tech – Biology, TPWD – River Studies, and TPWD Fish Hatcheries) that participated in the “Great Minnow Roundup.” One award was given to each organization as opposed to all 10 individuals. Three awards were given because this is the way that the nomination was written. Since the meeting several individuals have requested individual awards. Matt wondered if it would be proper to give individual awards and it was decided that individual certificates would be given to them. It was recommended that the Awards Committee draft a revision to their procedures to provide guidelines for this scenario.

Continuing Education – (Dan Bennett via Rick Ott)

- Three possible continuing education topics were discussed for the 2013 annual meeting. They were PowerPoint design, fish pathology, and freshwater algae taxonomy.

Editorial – (Dan Daugherty and Tim Birdsong)

- Dan wanted discussion concerning alternative presentation formats at the annual meetings. It is preferred that PowerPoint be used for meeting presentations but other formats could be used as long as the committee is aware of it well in advance and the alternative format has been tested to assure it is compatible and will work during the meeting.
- Committee wants to have an electronic submission of papers for the annual meeting which would include an author's biographical information for moderator's use.
- The committee is preparing the Annual Meeting Proceedings for electronic format publication.

Endowments – (Dave Terre)

- Dave announced that the endowment fund balance as of April 18th was \$151,752.
- Dave reported good growth in the endowment fund so far this year.
- Dave reported that two student scholarship winners this year have yet to thank donors.

History – (Michele Nations via Craig Bonds)

- Michelle has been working with the University of North Texas Portal to Texas History with getting TCAFS information uploaded to the site and will be sending the first CD of photos to them by the end of the month.
- Michelle hopes to be using the ListServ within the next month to request the biographies of members.
- Michele plans to have an article in the next newsletter about past scholarship recipients and where they are and what they have been doing.

Internet – (John Taylor and Janet Wisian)

- No Report

Issues – (Chris Moret and Niki Ragan via George Guillen)

- At the TCAFS Annual Conference in February there were many who expressed interest in the Issues Committee, Stocks at Risk and Exotic Species.
- Currently working on articles for the next TCAFS newsletter on the TPWD Shrimp Inspection Program and Water spinach inspection process.
- Question was raised as to whether “Stocks at Risk” and “Exotic Species” were currently organized as sub-committees of the Issues Committee. The Procedures Manual does not mention sub-committees of the Issues Committee.

Membership – (Debbie Wade)

- Debbie reported that we have roughly 150 current members of which roughly 50 are students.
- Debbie was unable to get recent membership information from the parent society.

Newsletter – (Kevin Storey via George Guillen)

- Kevin set a deadline of May 18 for making submissions to our next newsletter (Vol 38 No 2).
- Kevin reported the last issue was a bit late out of the gate and he would like to try to get it back on schedule

Nominating – (John Clayton)

- No Report

Pond Management – (John Tibbs via George Guillen)

- John gave kudos to Robert Mauk for providing the committee membership interest information in a timely manner.
- Committee plans to finalize committee members and focus on the potential to use new forms of media to communicate.
- Craig mentioned that Bass Tech 2012 (a Texas AgriLife and TPWD joint private lake management seminar) presentation podcasts were now available on the Pond Management Committee link on the TCAFS website.

Publicity/Exhibits – (Brad Littrell and Greg Conley)

- Greg reported that the raffle/auction made roughly \$6,200.00.
- Greg mentioned two issues that might come up for next year’s raffle/auction. One issue was the possible reduction in the amount of gift cards that TCAFS receives from Academy that are used to purchase items for the raffle. The other issue was the possible donation of a water quality monitoring unit and possibly auctioning it off. The issue is would institutions and agencies be able to bid for it or would their purchasing rules prohibit it. Further information will need to be gathered to determine how to proceed.

Scholarships – (Mike Morgan)

- No Report

Student Outreach – (Mandy Scott via Craig Bonds)

- Bass Brigade has selected its 24 cadets and 4 adult leaders for the 2012 camp. Camp dates are July 9-13, and if anyone is interested in becoming involved they are welcome to come visit during the camp week at Warren Ranch (between Coleman and Brownwood). Please contact Mandy for more details.

Old Business:

- No old business.

New Business:

- George discussed revising the current TCAFS logo by adding the official state saltwater fish, the red drum to represent coastal fisheries. EXCOM agreed it would be a good idea and George will have an artist work on the logo to see if an acceptable design can be achieved.
- It was suggested an annual meeting planning ad-hoc committee be formed to draft procedures and recommendations for planning and facilitating future TCAFS annual meetings. These procedures would include a recommended timeline for completion of various planning steps.

New Business:

- Danny Lewis wanted to make the membership aware of the upcoming 20th Annual Conference of the Organization of Fish & Wildlife Information Managers to be held 15-18 October, 2012 in Austin, TX. Danny is President-elect of the organization. For more information, contact Danny or go to www.ofwim.org.

Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.
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Texas Chapter AFS Business Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2012 Lake Conroe, Texas Galveston, Texas

by Robert Mauk, Secretary Treasurer

Attending in person: George Guillen, Craig Bonds, Rick Ott, Robert Mauk, Dave Terre, Mark Webb, and Mike Homer.
Attending remotely via iLinc: Dan Daugherty and Dave Buzan.

President's report: (George Guillen)

- George announced a change in the chair of the Awards Committee. Dave Buzan will replace Matt Chumchal. George wanted to thank Matt for his distinguished service as chair of this committee and wanted to welcome Dave aboard.
- The chapter has received a request from the Arkansas Chapter seeking a donation to support the 2013 AFS National Meeting. After much discussion, EXCOM thought there might be better ways to use our funds and support the meeting. One way was helping the student who earns the best paper award at the chapter's annual meeting to attend a Divisional or Parent Society meeting to present their paper. This idea is being delegated to the Awards and Student Affairs Committees for further discussion.

President-Elect's report: (Rick Ott)

- The August EXCOM meeting was held at the La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa on Lake Conroe which will be the site of the TCAFS Annual Meeting in 2013. EXCOM members were given a tour of the facilities.
- Rooms at the resort will be offered at a reduced rate. Singles will be \$77 and doubles will be \$135. A half rate "Resort Fee" will also be offered for attendees. As will reduced rates on rooms for attendees wanting to extend their visit.
- A theme for the meeting was suggested: "Large Rivers and Impoundments: Concepts and Challenges".

Past President's report: (Craig Bonds)

- The TCAFS by-laws revision went before the Southern Division EXCOM who approved them.
- The by-laws have gone to the Parent Society for the Governing Board to vote on at their next meeting (August 18th).
- The chapter has been told to operate under the proposed changes since it is expected that they will be approved.
- Craig pointed out that we must keep up to date on the chapter's history such as the lists of presidents, meeting locations, and award winners that will change annually. Since these are under the History link of the TCAFS website, it was determined that Michelle Nations, chair of the History committee should be in charge of this.

Secretary Treasurer's report: (Robert Mauk)

- The Chapter's cash account balance as of the August 8th, 2012 was \$12,662.56.
- Income since the last EXCOM meeting was \$1,711.93 and expenses were \$1,050.75.

Committee Reports:**Awards** (Dave Buzan)

- Having just taken over the Awards Committee, Dave needs to determine who else is on the committee.

Continuing Education – (Dan Bennett via Rick Ott)

- One continuing education course about fish pathology taught by Greg Southard is being planned for the annual meeting.
- Another continuing education class has been proposed but no subject has been settled on at this time.

Editorial – (Dan Daugherty and Tim Birdsong)

- The committee is scanning the past Annual Meeting Proceedings for electronic format publication. The goal is to have them all available on the TCAFS website by the time we hold the 2013 Annual Meeting.
- The committee is working on the 2012 Annual Meeting Proceedings.

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- Discussion was held on presentation formats that are acceptable for the Annual Meeting. Powerpoint is the recommended format for presentations.
 - Discussion about cutting the Plenary Session down to allow more time for presentations.

Endowments – (Dave Terre)

- Dave announced that the endowment fund balance as of August 8th was \$152,987.
- Dave reported a 6.06% growth in the endowment fund so far this year.
- Dave discussed the need to explore other financial companies to manage the TCAFS money with the EXCOM. EXCOM gave Dave the okay to look at other financial institutions to manage the chapter's money. Dave will report back to the EXCOM after he has completed his comparisons.

History – (Michele Nations)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.

Internet – (John Taylor and Janet Wisian)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.

Issues – (Chris Moret and Niki Ragan)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.

Membership – (Debbie Wade)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.

Newsletter – (Kevin Storey)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.
- It was noted that a May newsletter was not released as planned.

Nominating – (John Clayton)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.
- Past-President Craig Bonds noted that under new Chapter bylaws, he will now be a formal member of this committee this year.

Pond Management – (John Tibbs)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.

Publicity/Exhibits – (Brad Littrell and Greg Conley)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.
- Craig Bonds noted that they have been actively acquiring donations for the 2013 annual meeting.

Scholarships – (Mike Morgan)

- Contacted but could not attend EXCOM meeting. No report submitted.

Student Outreach – (Mandy Scott via Mike Homer)

- Bass Brigade was once again a success at Warren Ranch in July. They graduated 22 cadets, and at least six Texas Chapter members volunteered as instructors.
- Mike Homer and Mandy Scott will be working together on Student Outreach activities for the Annual Meeting.

Old Business:

- Discussed updating the TCAFS logo to include both state fishes, the Guadalupe bass and the redfish. Discussed different ways to have the logo created and how to decide on adoption of a new logo.
- No report from the Membership Churn Ad-hoc Committee. President will contact and request that they convene and have an updated report ready for Fall EXCOM with recommendations.
- Discussed the AFS initiative of making gray literature accessible to all by uploading it to a website. Determined there are numerous TPWD Inland Fisheries documents in electronic format that possibly could be uploaded. The chapter needs to identify people and entities that have gray literature and would be willing to share it. President will contact individuals identified at TPWD and TCEQ as a start to identify best process to facilitate this. Will report back to EXCOM at Fall meeting.

Feature article: Texas Parks and Wildlife's Shrimp Inspection Program

by
Robert Adami, Jr.
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Shrimp Inspection program was established in 1998. Prior to that time, farm inspections were conducted by TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division staff on an intermittent basis as the shrimp farming industry developed. The shrimp inspection program is authorized under Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 57, Subchapter A - Harmful or Potentially Harmful Fish, Shellfish, and Aquatic Plants. This rule encompasses all aspects of exotic shrimp culture, transport, disease management and best management practices. As part of the regulatory process, commercial shrimp farmers must acquire three state permits to operate in Texas. These permits include the: Waste Water discharge permit issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to discharge waste water into public waters, an Aquaculture Permit issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture, and an Exotic Species permit issued by TPWD to culture exotic shrimp.

Shrimp farming in Texas started on a pilot-scale in the late 1960's with Texas A&M University researchers developing indoor tank culture. Outdoor rearing pond culture protocols started in the 70's and 80's. Numerous commercial shrimp farms were launched in the 1980's based on technological advances made by researchers. In the late 90's the industry reached its peak in Texas with 15 commercial facilities, nine operating along the coast, six inland facilities operating in west Texas and three research facilities. However, due to high volumes of imported foreign shrimp, the price of domestic shrimp has dropped dramatically since 2004. Nonetheless, most shrimp farmers have maintained their state issued permits in case market prices rebound. Currently, only six commercial shrimp farms are operating on the Texas coast, along with two inland and two research facilities (Figure 1).

The species of choice for the commercial shrimp farming industry has been the Pacific White Shrimp which is not indigenous to

Texas waters. Because farmers prefer culturing this exotic species, TPWD is required by law to regulate its use in order to protect the state's coastal waters from introductions of exotic species. The main reason that farmers prefer culturing Pacific White Shrimp is that it naturally grows faster, larger and is a little easier to handle than the Texas' native white shrimp which makes this species commercially viable.

TPWD requires shrimp farmers to ensure the shrimp they use in their aquaculture applications are certified as pathogen-free. The certification involves purchasing larval shrimp that have been reared from Specific Pathogen Free strains. As part of the shrimp inspection program, documentation must be provided stating the exotic shrimp being cultured have a clean bill of health. The shrimp must be certified as disease free for a variety of diseases and parasites. Currently, Texas has no testing facilities for disease-free health certification. Over the years, TPWD has accepted health certifications from other highly respected diagnostic laboratories located in Arizona, Mississippi, Florida and Hawaii. The majority of shrimp farmers in Texas utilize the



Figure 1. Shrimp farm facilities located on the Texas coast and inland.

University of Arizona for disease diagnostics.

TPWD's shrimp inspection program involves standard operating protocols for the shrimp farming industry. Once the distribution hatchery receives their shrimp health certificate, the farmers may start the grow-out processes. Tank raceways and ponds are typically stocked with shrimp larvae during the months of March and April. When the larvae are approximately 6-8 weeks old, TPWD inspectors make site visits to the farms and randomly sample the juvenile shrimp in each culture unit for any signs of diseases (Figure 2). Each culture unit must be inspected at least two times during the production season. The first inspection is conducted when the juvenile shrimp are 6-8 weeks old and weigh about 1 g. The following inspections would be prior to water discharge or harvest. If a disease issue is discovered during the inspection process, TPWD inspectors will quarantine the entire facility until the disease has been positively identified. Once a disease has been positively identified, a quarantine period is imposed according to the specific disease detected. During the quarantine period, no culture water may be released from the facility. These inspections are valid for a two week period. If the farmers want to discharge or harvest after the 2 week period ends, another inspection is required.



Figure 2. These juvenile shrimp range in size from 0.8 – 1.7 grams are ready for the first inspection.

Two viruses that have hampered the shrimp farming industry world-wide are the Taura Syndrome Virus (TSV) and the White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV). Both of these diseases can pose a serious threat to native shrimp populations but are not harmful to humans. TPWD inspectors have conducted more than 14,898 inspections since 1999. During that time, TSV has been detected only two times (1999 and 2004) in commercial rearing ponds while WSSV has not been detected at any time in Texas shrimp farms. In addition, TPWD has conducted two scientific studies (1997-2000 and 2005-2007) to determine whether any exotic shrimp culture diseases have made their way to state waters via sources such as shrimp processing plants, retail food distribution stores that import frozen foreign shrimp, waste water discharges from culture facilities, or even shore birds that can transport live shrimp from outdoor culture ponds to coastal waters. The very encouraging news is that no exotic shrimp diseases have been detected in our native shrimp or crab populations.



Figure 3. A slush-ice-filled tote with approximately 1,000 pounds of Texas farm-raised shrimp.

The Texas shrimp farming industry has done an excellent job at being a very responsible corporate citizen, and has over the years produced very healthy shrimp for commercial sale (Figure 3). Since 1999-2011, shrimp farm producers have provided more than 70.9 million pounds (heads-on) of farm-raised shrimp. Compared to 413.4 million pounds of heads-off shrimp (1999-2010) harvested by commercial bay and gulf shrimpers in Texas, farmed shrimp production is relatively small.

Considering expected growths in the earth's human population and unsustainable commercial fishing practices that are occurring world-wide our appetite for seafood may

be challenged in the future. However, Texas shrimp farmers stand ready to fill the gap as needed in supplying

a high-quality seafood product while at the same time taking a resource conservation approach to their large-scale production operations.

Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

➤ Tracking great white sharks in real-time; there's an app for that!



A project led by shark expert Professor Barbara Block from Stanford University is tracking animal movements in the “blue Serengeti” off the coast of San Francisco. They are monitoring the movements of creatures ranging from sharks, and seabirds to turtles using electronic tags. Position information is recorded through the use of an unmanned robot mounted on a bright yellow surfboard. The device is propelled through the use of a glider that converts wave energy into forward thrust. The glider which descends 23ft down into the ocean is also equipped with a receiver that picks up audio signals from the animal's electronic

tags. The surfboard carries the rest of the scientific instruments including the satellite link that allows researchers to accurately pinpoint the animals' positions. When robot encounters a shark or other tagged animal, the position is recorded and relayed back to the research team. In addition, a network of fixed buoys equipped with hydrophones has been deployed in known hotspots to provide additional information.

<http://www.gtopp.org/>

The Stanford researchers have created an app called “Shark Net – Predators of the Blue Serengeti” using funding from a Rolex Award for Enterprise. This app is available as a free download from the iTunes App Store. It enables the general public to connect with what is happening off the coast of California thereby raising public awareness, a key to support for protection. Users can follow real-time movements, view videos, photos, and interact with 3D models of the animals and learn about their life history. The app requires devices running iOS 4.3 or later. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shark-net-predators-blue-serengeti/id542042032>

➤ Dolphins help fishermen catch fish

Bottlenose dolphins in the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina have been collaborating with local fishermen to help them catch fish for more than 150 years! The dolphins herd the schools of mullet in a synchronized fashion towards lines of fishermen who stand knee-deep in water close to the beach near the town of Laguna. By the use of specialized head or tail slaps, dolphins direct when and where fishermen should throw their cast nets to catch fish. A group of 200 artisanal fishermen are almost totally reliant on the dolphins to catch fish. If dolphins are not seen in the area, fishermen will not bother to try to catch fish. Locals say “No dolphin, no fish”. This phenomenon is also known in parts of West Africa but nowhere else in the world.



Researchers from the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil have been able to reconstruct the social structure of 35 of the population's 55 dolphins. They identified individuals by their appearance and documented which animals spent time together and which ones participated in the fishing. They identified three distinct social networks within the Laguna dolphins. One of these groups consisted of 20 individuals and was made up entirely of the fishermen-cooperating animals. Cooperation seems to be a learned or inherited behavioral trait

since there is nothing in the environment that prevents other dolphins from engaging in it. The “cooperative” dolphins spent more time together even when not assisting humans and they seemed to have their own social network within the larger local population of bottlenose dolphins.

Locals know cooperative dolphins by sight and they have even given them names. Two animals in particular “Scube” and “Caroba” have cooperated for more than 15 years. One of the most famous dolphins, “Galha Torta” died in the 1960s but his name is still revered.

To watch a video on these dolphins from the BBC television series *The Human Planet* go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVinWYmu5IQ>

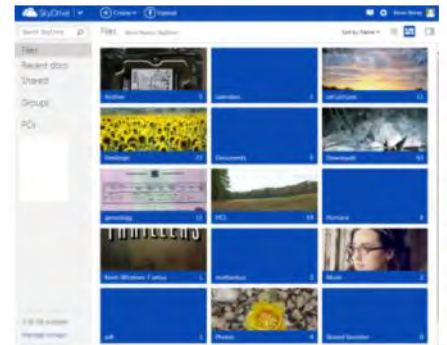
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/shark-net-predators-blue-serengeti/id542042032?mt=8>



Freebies for the busy fisheries professional!

➤ SkyDrive gets a facelift

Microsoft’s cloud storage service, SkyDrive recently got a re-design which added a host of new features. When you access your account through a browser (<https://skydrive.live.com/>) your files and folders are arranged in a tile-based design similar to the user interface of the upcoming Windows 8 operating system. You can drag and drop multiple files directly from your computer onto the interface. Alternatively, you can download files from SkyDrive to your hard drive. The contextual toolbar should make working with folders and documents easier than before. There are apps available for Windows 7, Windows Vista, or Mac OS X Lion which let you access your content from your desktop. For mobile users, there are apps for Windows Phone, iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Having access to so many different apps makes it much easier to sync files between a wide variety of computers and mobile devices. SkyDrive provides 7 GB of secure storage. <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/skydrive/home>

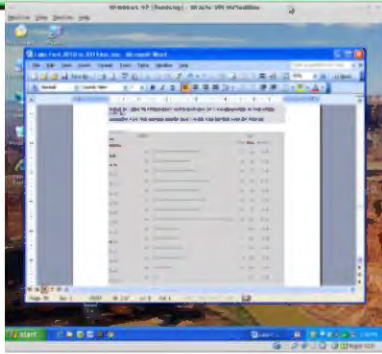


➤ Need more storage ?

Box.com offers 25 GB of cloud storage and there’s also the new Box Sync application which is compatible with Windows XP, Vista, and 7 with support for 32 and 64-bit editions. It also supports Mac OS X Snow Leopard (10.6) and Lion (10.7). For users on the go, there’s Box for iPhone and iPad, Android, TouchPad, Windows Phone, Blackberry. If you prefer there’s a Box website optimized for mobile browsers (m.box.com). If you are a new user, you’ll have to create an account and log in to the Box.com website to access the available apps. Some lucky users have managed to snag 50 GB accounts through special promotions. <https://www.box.com/>

➤ Mix and match operating systems with Oracle VirtualBox

Have you ever needed or wanted to have access to more than one operating system on your computer? If you don’t want to go to the trouble of setting up multiple operating systems using dual-booting, the easiest way around this conundrum is to use a virtualization product such as Oracle VirtualBox. The first step is to install the VirtualBox application along with the associated Extension Pack. Packages are available for Windows, OS X, Linux and Solaris hosts. Next you are going to install the alternate operating system you are interested in within VirtualBox as a new Virtual Machine. You’ll create a name for your new system, and then there are a series of operating systems available in the drop-down menus. Specify the size of the virtual hard drive and the system memory (RAM) you want to allocate to the system. Next you are going to use a program disc to install the operating system just as you would if you were setting up a new computer.



When you complete the installation, install any updates and the applications you will need. Once you have a functional system, it's a good idea to export a copy of it for safe keeping ((File, Export Appliance). Keep it in a safe place and if your system ever stops performing properly, you can Remove the virtual machine and Import the appliance you saved. Remember these virtual operating systems are going to be sharing your system's resources so you can expect some decrease in performance as a result. 64-bit operating systems with generous amounts of RAM will probably yield the best results. If you have ever wanted to have access to a Linux system system like Mint (<http://www.linuxmint.com/download.php>), you need access to Windows XP

on a Mac or you want to experiment with the Windows 8 Enterprise Evaluation before the operating system is released (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/evalcenter/jj554510.aspx>), this is a good option for you to consider.

Before you jump into this project, your best bet is to look for articles and videos submitted online by people who have got some experience installing these systems.

<https://www.virtualbox.org/>

<https://www.virtualbox.org/manual/ch01.html>

➤ Create your own books in Wikipedia



Wikipedia now offers users the ability to export articles from their site into a number of portable formats for future reference. These can be read on a broad range of devices like computers, mobile phones, tablets and e-ink based e-book readers. To create your personal e-book you must first activate the "Create a book" link in the left sidebar of Wikipedia in the "Print/export" section. Get as creative as you like by adding other articles. You can even reorder your project

into chapters. These collections can be exported as e-books in pdf and epub formats, as OpenOffice word processor format, or as KIWIX (OpenZIM). If you prefer a hard copy, you can also upload your projects to PediaPress a service that prints books based on wike content. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Books>

Creative uses for invasive species!



This picture is taken from "Rodina", a book by Irina Ruppert about her travels in Eastern Europe. It's unlikely to do much to promote the use of bighead carp as yard art!

Join the Texas Chapter

If you are interested in joining or renewing your membership to the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, you can get membership materials at our web site, www.sdafs.org/tcafs/index.htm or by contacting Deborah Wade, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2234, Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us

If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the chapter newsletter.

Members are encouraged to make submissions to the Newsletter Editor by mail or e-mail to one of the addresses listed below.

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