

President-elect's message

by Kevin Storey

This has been one of the most pleasant summers I can recall in the 30 years I have lived in Texas. To begin with, the temperatures in East Texas were unseasonably mild until August and we have had rain often enough that my lawn never got that crunchy feeling underfoot. Despite the rain showers we are still abnormally dry in the northern counties in East Texas. Most of the state is still in drought, with the exception of some counties in the southeast, south and far west Texas. Drought severity in Texas counties ranges from moderate to exceptional. In the last week of September 2014, the water supply reservoirs monitored by the Texas Water Development Board were on average 64.0% full with a total reservoir storage of 24,470,875 acre-ft. Individual reservoirs ranged from 0.4 to 100% full. Even though we had a pleasant summer in East Texas and below-average summer temperatures were recorded from the Rocky Mountains through much of the central U.S. and on the East Coast, 2014 was the hottest summer (June, July and August) on record according to data released by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. Global temperature for summer was 1.28 degrees above the 20th century average of 61.5 degrees. To date, 2014 is the third warmest year on record, fueled in part by the warmth of the oceans.

As fisheries professionals, we have a shared concern about water resources and droughts usually get our attention. The upcoming TCAFS annual meeting in Tyler from January 15-17, 2015 will have the theme "Drought and its effects on Texas fisheries." At the plenary session on Friday morning, one of the presenters will be Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist who should be able to give us a glimpse of the "bigger picture", climatologically speaking. We are also in the process of securing speakers to give perspectives on drought impacts in Texas freshwater and coastal systems. In the next newsletter, scheduled later this fall, we will have detailed information on the meeting schedule with information on accommodation and registration. By now members have received a challenge from our Publicity / Exhibits Committee for each of us to secure a donation or exhibitor for the meeting to help fund TCAFS student scholarships.

So far planning for the January meeting has been proceeding on track but towards the end of the year it will no doubt get more and more hectic. I suppose this is a rite of passage for all presidents-elect!

To all of those members who are not engaged in helping to keep the Chapter running, I would encourage you to find a place of service. It gives you a chance to give something back to your profession.

Save the date!
TCAFS Annual Meeting
January 15-17, 2015

Holiday Inn South
Broadway, Tyler

"Drought and its effects on
Texas fisheries"



1st CALL FOR PAPERS

2015 Annual Meeting Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society

January 15 - 17, 2015

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are requested for the 2015 annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The meeting will be held Thursday through Saturday, January 15 – 17, 2015, at the Holiday Inn in Tyler, Texas. To submit an abstract to be considered for the technical program, please provide the following information:

- Author name(s)** (presenting author should be noted with an *)
Presentation type (oral or poster ... please indicate whether you are willing to present the data in the alternative format if requested)
Contact information (affiliation, street address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, and email address)
Presentation title
Abstract (Single paragraph, 300-word maximum length)

In addition, please indicate your intentions for the presentation in the 2015 TCAFS Proceedings (abstract-only or manuscript), and indicate whether the presenter is a **STUDENT** or **PROFESSIONAL**. To be considered a student presenter, you must be enrolled at the time the abstract is submitted. **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTERS ...** please indicate your willingness to judge student presentations.

Oral presentations should be prepared as a 15-minute presentation (with 5-minutes for open discussion) using MS PowerPoint®. Poster presentations should be formatted to include a title, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion/conclusion, and literature cited. Posters must not exceed 48" in any dimension.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS IS 01 DECEMBER 2014.

Please submit your presentation abstract **ELECTRONICALLY** (preferably in MS Word®) to:
Dan.Daugherty@tpwd.texas.gov

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

“Big Bubba from Beaumont wins for 42nd consecutive year”

by Dave Buzan, Awards Committee Chair

We love Bubba and he’s done a wonderful job but let’s nominate new winners for 2014. This is your chance to break the “Bubba” streak. Nominate your well-deserving mentors, co-workers, students, and professors for outstanding fishery worker. In case you have forgotten our awards categories they include:

- Fisheries Administration
- Fisheries Management
- Fish Culture
- Fisheries Education
- Fisheries Research
- Fisheries Student
- Technical Support
- Special Recognition in Fisheries Work



Forms for nominations can be found at: <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tc-awards/>.

The deadline for submittal is December 1. Awards will be presented at the chapter’s annual meeting in January. Any questions about awards and nominations can be directed to Dave Buzan, david.buzan@freese.com, 512.617.3164.

Raise your voice in support of your fisheries co-workers and colleagues. Nominate someone today!

Paul Hammerschmidt has retired from TPWD after 41 years!

by Paul Hammerschmidt



I have been interested in Marine Biology since I was 3 or 4 years old. When my family and I went to the beach in San Diego, my dad fished, Mom read, my sister played in the water, and I wandered up and down the beach rummaging through kelp holdfasts, collecting seashells and picking up dead stinky stuff that seriously needed to be identified. I was never satisfied to know that what I collected was a crab or a shell, I wanted to know its name and how it lived.

My parents encouraged my interests and took me to many seminars about the ocean and enrolled me in various summer programs that provided hands-on introductions to the marine environment.

After high school, I entered the University of California-San Diego

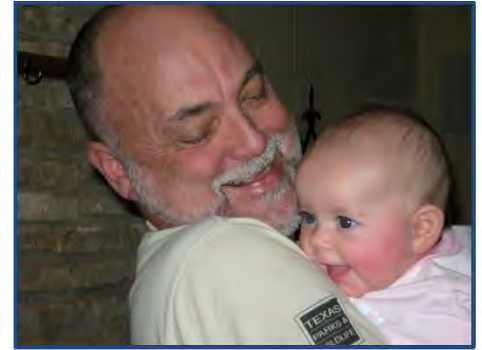
where I received a bachelor’s degree majoring in biology with a minor in art. Soon after, I enrolled at Texas A&M University where I received my Master of Science degree in fisheries science.

I began my career with TPWD in 1974 as a Wildlife and Fisheries Technician in Rockport. Since then, my career has been a diverse one. I was area biologist for the San Antonio Bay System, Blue Crab Program leader, Research Director at the Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research



Station, and Director of the Artificial Reef Program. I was 2-term chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Crab Committee and President of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in 2000.

I have written over 35 scientific and peer-reviewed publications as author and co-author. And for the longest time I began to think my name was Anonymous from the numerous documents I had written or contributed to writing while in Austin. Some of the most significant ones include complete rewrites of the shrimp and oyster proclamations.



I am proud to have helped to develop the shrimp and blue crab license limitation programs and to coordinate the compilation of the 38 volumes of Administrative Record Discovery materials for a lawsuit brought against the agency by the shrimping industry.

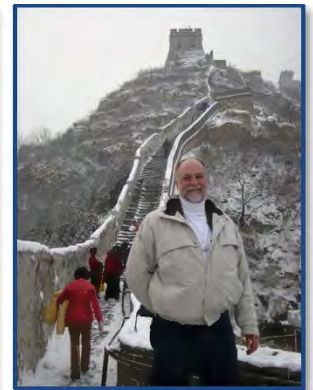
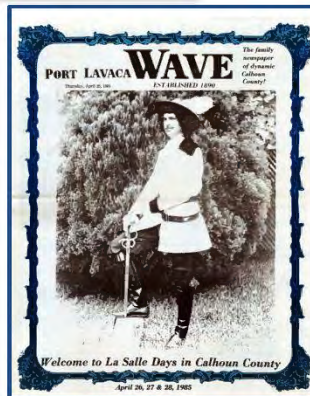
After transferring to Headquarters in 1993, I was given the job of coordinating many of the division's programmatic responsibilities to the agency, such as the regulatory and rule-making process, Legislative Budget Board (LBB) Measures, the Blue Crab Advisory Committee, education and outreach activities, and Expo.



One of the many high points in my career was when I was called upon to be team lead or team member on many agency-wide special task forces, including multiple versions of the license review process.

Another love of mine is to share my excitement, wonder and knowledge about the marine environment through many school presentations, local board of education (LBOE) and other community outreach programs led by the agency's urban outreach team.

Recently I was part of a Fisheries Science and Conservation delegation to China sponsored by the People to People organization where my colleagues and I conferred on common fishery management issues and concerns.



TPWD Inland Fisheries Division Director, Gary Saul, retires after 23 years of service with the agency

(given by Ross Melinchuk, Deputy Executive Director of Natural Resources, at Gary's retirement party on August 29, 2014)

Gary Saul started work at TPWD in 1982 in Coastal Fisheries as Director of Finfish Programs and later as Director of Harvest Programs where he worked to refine the sampling procedures used in fisheries surveys. Probably his best accomplishment in Coastal was recommending Robin Riechers be hired as our economist. Gary left the Department after 6 years to work on national environmental issues for almost 10 years. During that time, he joined the faculty and taught at Texas State University and was selected to serve on the National Research Council/ National Academy of Science's Committee examining the decline of sea turtles.

Gary returned to TPWD in 1997 to develop a strategy for addressing the infrastructure and permit issues facing freshwater fish hatcheries. He was promoted to Chief of Fish Hatcheries and subsequently Deputy Director. Much of the work done by our team provided the justification for pursuing the Freshwater Fishing Stamp. Gary played a role in bringing the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) enterprise to the Department.



He saw his current role as an opportunity to help develop leaders within the Department. Gary served as a Mentor in our Natural Leaders Program which has been recognized by the national Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as one of the best leadership development programs in the nation. Gary has served in key state and national leadership positions. He has been an active member of a number of professional organizations. He is a Past-President of the Fisheries Administration Section for the American Fisheries Society as well as a member of the Society's Governing Board and Senior Management Committee. He was recently recognized by the Society for his work. Gary takes great joy in the individual and collective successes of his team. Our team has great leaders at all levels.

He has a Bachelor of Science from North Carolina State, 2 Master of Science degrees (Fisheries; Applied Statistics) from Louisiana State University and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. He is blessed to be married to Mary for 40 years and extremely proud of his two kids: Katie is a research laboratory manager at a major medical research center in Denver, and Devon is developing year-round sports programs for people with disabilities in Chico, California.

With ~23 years of service ...

Gary is going to homestead on Grandpappy Smith's Mountain in Virginia for a little while. He will seek 'squatters' guidance from Grandpappy's great-great-great-grandson Carter! Carter and his lovely family are welcome anytime!

Gary wanted me to share this with you:

Another tidbit that connected me to Texas-

I was a citizen ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1967.

It was the height of the cold war - Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin came to the United Nations to speak. President Johnson was in DC. They needed to meet but neither could acquiesce to the invitation of the other. So they found a place almost exactly half way between – Glassboro, New Jersey, at the house of the College President (about 2 blocks from our house). It was the historic moment that started the end of the cold war. In the euphoria, a group comprised of a cross section of people and disciplines were chosen from Glassboro to travel to the Soviet Union to meet with our counterparts throughout their country. I was chosen as a high school student. It was cool.

Texas Chapter AFS ExCom Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2014

TPWD Inland Fisheries Region 3 Office, Tyler, Texas

Call to Order: by TCAFS President-Elect Kevin Storey at 10:05 AM.

Determination of a quorum: Yes. Those attending at the Tyler location or via conference call (anymeeting.com) included Kevin Storey (President-Elect), Rick Ott (Past President), Greg Southard (Secretary-Treasurer), Michele Nations, Dan Bennett, Jake Norman, Greg Binion, Mike Homer, and Aaron Urbanczyk.

Approval of Previous Business Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Rick Ott to approve the TCAFS Business Meeting Minutes from the 2014 Meeting at Tanglewood Resort (Pottsboro, TX), which was seconded by Mike Homer and approved by all attendees.

President's Report: (Bruce Hysmith)

- No report.

SDAFS Officer Update: (Craig Bonds)

- No report.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: (Greg Southard)

- Greg reported the Chapter finances for 2014.
 - The Chapter's cash account balance as of July 8, 2014 is \$20,135.03.
 - Greg propose moving \$8,135.03 to the Endowment account, leaving a total of \$12K in the cash account for the remainder of the calendar year and preliminary costs associated with the 2015 annual meeting in Tyler. The motion was seconded by Dan Bennett and voted upon by meeting attendees. All were in favor and the motion was carried.
- Greg reported chapter activity since the last business meeting in February:
 - TCAFS Membership (as of June 6, 2014) is a total of 269 members consisting of 166 professionals (annual, lifetime, and retired) and 103 students.
 - Five poster easels purchased from Office Depot and transferred to TPWD Waco Regional Office with the rest of the easels for poster presentations at annual meetings.
 - The 2013 Tax documents (budget, deposit record, purchase receipts, etc.) were sent to the CPA (Gollob Morgan, Peddy and Co., P.C. in Tyler, TX) to prepare last year's tax return for the chapter. An extension was granted by IRS. The chapter is normally notified of submission of the tax return to the IRS by the CPA in the fall (October/November) and the chapter is invoiced for their services (\$1,300.00 in 2013).
 - A non-refundable group meeting deposit (\$500.00) has been paid to the Holiday Inn South Broadway (Tyler, TX) for the 2015 Annual Meeting.

President-Elect's Report: (Kevin Storey)

- Kevin reported progress made on the 2015 TCAFS Annual Meeting:
 - The contract with the host hotel (Holiday Inn South Broadway) in Tyler, TX has been approved by the EXCOM and signed.
 - The meeting will be held Thursday, January 15th to Saturday, January 17th, 2015.
 - The room block rate is \$83.00/night and will be available up to a month before the meeting, with a deadline of December 18, 2014 to guarantee the discount rate. However, the hotel will honor the rate past the deadline if rooms are still available.
 - There will be a meeting at the Holiday Inn South Broadway in August for EXCOM members to tour the hotel and discuss the meeting facilities and accommodations for the upcoming annual meeting. A preliminary date and time of August 18th at 10 AM has been suggested but Kevin will follow up with EXCOM and Committee members soon with a firm date and time.
- Kevin reported a possible themes for the 2015 meeting including:
 - Managing aquatic systems and living with drought
 - Climate variability and aquatic systems
 - Drought – when will it end?
- Kevin mentioned a presentation by the state climatologist at a recent TPWD Inland Fisheries Staff Meeting that was well received and thought that the information in the talk might be interesting to chapter members.
- Rick mentioned that there is usually just a plenary speaker at the annual meetings, but in some instances there has been a panel of experts to participate in a round-table discussion. Rick suggested having several experts to cover the drought issues at a national scale (e.g., NOAA), statewide (e.g. state climatologist), and a regional/local expert to cover the different aspects of the problem in those regards.
- Greg S. suggested that if the state climatologist was not available, there are other water experts (e.g., Andy Samson of the Texas Rivers Institute, etc.) that might be interested in presenting at the meeting.

Committee Reports

Awards: (Dave Buzan and Michele Nations)

- No report.

Continuing Ed: (Dan Bennett)

- Dan mentioned a potential topic for the CE session(s) at the upcoming 2015 annual meeting, being an overview of the new Windows 8 operating system.
- Dan requested any ideas from meeting attendees and TCAFS members so get in touch with him if you have something in mind.
- Mike Homer suggested a workshop on developing posters and/or Powerpoint presentations for the technical sessions. This information would be very helpful to student members as well as a good review for professional members of the chapter.

Editorial: (Dan Daugherty and Allison Pease)

- Kevin reported that Dan had contacted him and said they had little to report at this time but mentioned that the 2014 Annual Meeting proceedings are in progress and should be available soon.

Endowments: (Dave Terre)

- As of 7-7-2014, the balance in our Student Scholarship Endowment was \$222,865.55. Since January 1st, we have seen 4.91% growth in our investments, which is very good.
- Dave met with our financial advisor (Mike Davis) in early July and is very pleased with the performance of our investments and the attention they give to our accounts. Our investments are well-balanced for

long-term growth and are in a good position to weather any kind of correction that might be coming in the stock market (it's expected by many).

- No additional donations have been received since our 2014 annual meeting; however the Chapter still needs to transfer funds coming from our annual meeting into our endowment account. Greg Southard and Dave have been in communication about this and Greg S. will carry our recommendation to the meeting. The amount will include all donations/proceeds coming in from our annual meeting and auction/raffle, plus an additional amount that would leave our checking account balance at \$12,000. This is typically how we do business each year, but we could move additional funds IF the EXCOM is comfortable with doing that. Greg S. can answer questions about that.

History: (Michele Nations)

- Michelle wanted to thank everyone (especially Rick Ott and Joe Beach) who has forwarded her job positions, internships, and volunteer opportunities to post on social media (Facebook, etc.).
- Michelle reported that the Google Groups email system is working well to get the word out on chapter activities, job/intern opportunities, etc.
- Michelle requested pictures from the student subunits of any activities, research projects, or anything else the subunit has done in order to let the other TCAFS members see what the subunits and students are currently involved with.
- Michelle would like to be able to link/post documents (e.g., Pond Management Manual) to the TCAFS Facebook page. Greg S. said he'd assist her with instructions on how to create a "File" tab to the page so that people can access those documents.

Internet: (John Taylor and Danny Lewis)

- Kevin reported that neither John or Danny could attend the meeting due to prior arrangements, but notified him of the following items:
 - The TCAFS website has been converted to the Word Press platform and seems to be working well and can be found at <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/>. Word Press gives us the ability to track some statistics on page usage.
 - Pictures and podcasts of presentations from the 2014 Annual Meeting can be found at <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tc-meetings/2014-meeting-home-page/2014-meeting-podcasts/>
 - The 2015 Annual Meeting webpage has been set up and can be found at <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tc-meetings/2015-meeting-home-page/>.

Issues: (Niki Ragan and Mark Webb)

- Rick mentioned that Mark was on jury duty and could not attend the meeting but shared a concern brought about by Dr. Gene Wilde (Texas Tech University) regarding the recent stocking of Gulf Coast minnows in west Texas water bodies.

Membership: (Debbie Wade)

- No report

Newsletter Editor: (Kevin Storey)

- Kevin reported that Google Groups had been set up to take over the chapter correspondence from the previous ListServ system and seemed to be working well.
- Kevin mentioned the suggestion by Craig Bonds who suggested an alternative system that the SDAFS was currently using, however he was hesitant to change formats considering that the Google Groups was working properly and easy to use.
- Kevin mentioned the next newsletter would be available in August following the next EXCOM site visit to the host hotel of the 2015 Annual Meeting. There will also be another newsletter released in late 2014 (November).

Nominating: (John Clayton)

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- Kevin reported that John could not attend the meeting due to prior arrangements, but notified him of the following items:
 - John encourages any active TCAFS members to get involved with the chapter, either with the EXCOM or serving on one of the many committees.
 - There will be two EXCOM positions to elect this year (President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer).

Pond Management: (Greg Binion)

- Greg B. reported there were no major activities to report but would like to recruit TCAFS members to serve on the Pond Management Committee.
- Greg B. also asked for a listing of current members who had indicated on the annual membership form that they were interested in serving a committee, so Greg S. said he would forward a copy of the active TCAFS member roster that includes that information.

Publicity/Exhibits: (Jenny Oakley and Jake Norman)

- Jake reported that Jenny had sent out thank you cards to exhibitors, sponsors and those making significant donations to the chapter for the 2014 Annual Meeting.
- The committee is currently drafting letters requesting sponsorship and/or donations for the 2015 Annual Meeting and will email to the EXCOM and Committee chairs soon for approval.
- Jake mentioned continuing with a rifle and Yeti cooler for the “big money” raffle items and there were suggestions by meeting attendees of offering a kayak or GoPro as alternatives. If any chapter members have additional ideas, please let Jenny and Jake know of your suggestion(s).

Scholarships: (Mike Morgan)

- No report.

Student Outreach: (Mike Homer)

- Mike thanked John, Danny, and Michelle for their help in getting the word out to student chapter members about job, intern, and volunteer opportunities using the website and social media.
- Mike thanked Aaron Urbanczyk (President, Texas Tech University Subunit) and other students at Texas Tech who got together to re-form the subunit. It has been 8 years since Texas Tech has had an active subunit student chapter.
- Mike said he had contacted Hailey Woelfel (President, Texas A&M University Subunit) who informed them of the TAMU-AFS activities this year:
- Mike mentioned he has been active in communicating with the subunit student chapter Presidents and Advisors to highlight student research, activities, etc. to inform the rest of the chapter.

Student Subunit Chapter Reports:

- The Texas Tech University Student Subunit was represented by Aaron Urbanczyk (President) during the meeting, who stated:
 - The subunit elected officers this spring.
 - A field trip involving 5 undergraduates and 5 graduate students was taken to demonstrate fisheries techniques using electrofishing, water quality measurements and other parameters commonly used by fisheries scientists.
 - Student subunit members have been encouraged to get involved with the TCAFS, attend meetings and possible present research findings.

Old Business:

- Greg S. reported receiving a thank you letter from the Oklahoma Chapter AFS (OKCAFS) in regards to the 2014 dual-chapter meeting at Tanglewood Resort. Because of the TCAFS hosting the event and pre-paying for many of the meeting itinerary (programs, folders, labels, etc.) and the pro-ration of proceeds from the meeting, the OKCAFS actually owed the TCAFS \$422.34 after all the bills were

finalized. The TCAFS EXCOM had voted to absorb those costs and notified the OKCAFS of our intention to do so, but they wanted to pay their "share" as stated in the text from the thank you letter below:

Letter from OKCAFS to the TCAFS (April 2014)

Greg – Please find enclosed a check to the TCAFS to cover losses associated w/the recent joint meeting. We greatly appreciate the offer to overlook this shortage but we understood the conditions going into the meeting and were willing to accept profits or pay shortages pending meeting turnout. Thanks to the TCAFS for hosting such a quality meeting.

Thanks!!

Shannon Brewer (OKCAFS President) Matt Mauck (OKCAFS Secretary-Treasurer)

- Kevin mentioned that starting at the 2015 Annual Meeting, TCAFS annual dues will be included in the registration cost to attend the meeting and not a separate charge. Greg S. also stated that the option to pay chapter dues through the parent society AFS will no longer be an option in 2015 and chapter dues will be handled exclusively either at the Annual Meeting or through correspondence with the current TCAFS Secretary-Treasurer. This change will affect prior issues related to paying dues through the AFS, such as delayed reimbursement from the parent society as well as it being several months until the TCAFS was notified of new chapter members.
- Rick asked if the current TCAFS Committee Chairs had been contacted by Bruce to see if they were still interested in continuing the position or wanted to step down and let someone else take charge. It was not clear if committee members had been contacted or not so there are plans to address this concern soon.
- Changes to the procedures manual (\$500 travel award for Outstanding Student Presentation and addition of Student Award) that were agreed upon at the 2014 Business Meeting has not been completed. Greg S. and Kevin agreed to work on revising the documents. A draft will be sent out to the EXCOM for review and acceptance.

New Business:

- No new business items were addressed.

Adjourn: Kevin made the motion to adjourn which was seconded by Dan Bennett. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.

Texas Chapter AFS ExCom Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2014

Holiday Inn South Broadway, Tyler, Texas

by Greg Southard, Secretary Treasurer

Call to Order: by President-Elect Kevin Storey at 11:03AM

Determination of a quorum: Yes.

Members Present: Bruce Hysmith (President), Kevin Storey (President-Elect), Greg Southard (Secretary-Treasurer), Dan Bennett, Michele Nations, Allison Pease, Danny Lewis, Jake Norman, Todd Robinson, and Dave Buzan.

Approval of Previous Business Meeting Minutes: Kevin asked about approval of the July EXCOM Meeting Minutes. Michele gave a motion to accept the Minutes, which was seconded by Dan. Kevin asked for a vote to which all Members present voted for with none against. Motion was passed and Minutes were approved.

President's Report: (Bruce Hysmith)

- Bruce had no official report but did remark about the progress that has been made towards preparing for the 2015 Chapter Meeting, saying things were progressing well at this point in the year.

President-Elect's Report: (Kevin Storey)

- Kevin announced the theme for the 2015 TCAFS Meeting as "Drought and its Effect on Fisheries". The 2015 TCAFS Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn South Broadway in Tyler, Texas January 15 – 17, 2015. All TCAFS Members are encouraged to attend!!!
- Kevin has contacted the state climatologist (Dr. John Nielson-Gammon), who has graciously accepted the offer to be a plenary speaker and speak about the chronological and future perspective of the current drought in Texas. Kevin has also contacted Dr. Thomas Hardy (Texas State University) and waiting for his response to be an additional plenary speaker.
- Kevin and other TCAFS ExCom and Committee chairs toured the 2015 meeting site (Holiday Inn South Broadway) just prior to the day's ExCom Meeting.

SDAFS Officer Update (Craig Bonds):

- No report.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: (Greg Southard)

- Greg reported the transfer of \$8,135.03 from the chapter Checking account to the Endowment account, leaving approximately \$12K (\$12,000.18) in the Checking account. (The transfer of funds was approved at the July 2014 ExCom meeting).
- Greg reported the current TCAFS Membership is a total of 273 members consisting of 168 professionals (annual, lifetime, and retired) and 105 students.
- Greg mentioned being in contact with Eva Przygodski (AFS Membership Coordinator) regarding removing the option to pay for (or re-new) chapter dues through the parent society web site. Waiting for her response but from previous correspondence with Eva, the option will continue on the AFS website until the end of calendar year 2014 as they cannot make the change during the calendar year.
 - Greg posed a question for EXCOM – since TCAFS chapter dues will be paid in conjunction with the 2015 Meeting registration, do we increase the registration fee? In the past we've charged:
 - \$90 for regular member registration (\$105.00 late)
 - \$45 for student member registration (\$55 late)
 - \$12 for professional chapter dues and \$5 for students
 - Attending members agreed that the registration fees would be increased for the 2015 Meeting to cover the chapter dues as a one-time cost:
 - \$102 for regular member registration (\$117.00 late)
 - \$50 for student member registration (\$60 late)
- Greg is working on revisions to the 2015 Chapter Meeting documents (i.e., registration form, receipts for donations/sponsorships, budget spreadsheet).
- Greg also mentioned working on revisions to the chapter Procedures Manual, specifically the section regarding Award Criteria. At the 2014 Business Meeting, we approved modifications to:
 - Add a Student Award with the following qualifications:
 - Outstanding academic achievements as a student in Texas
 - Conduct a student project/graduate research advancing the science of the Texas fisheries
 - Research supports organizations and/or groups working with Texas fisheries
 - Award Outstanding Professional and Student Presentation and Posters at the Annual Meeting
 - Change from 4-6 judges to 3-6

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- Classification (professional or student) determined by lead author membership status
 - Award recipients will receive a plaque from the AFS and co-authors will receive a certificate from the AFS
 - Recipient of Outstanding Student Presentation will be eligible for a \$500.00 travel award to make same presentation at “meetings of the American Fisheries Society (or any of its Divisions)” within 12 months of the chapter meeting (must provide proof of presentation, receipts for registration, travel costs, etc.).

Committee Reports

Awards: (Dave Buzan and Michele Nations)

- Dave mentioned not having anything new to report in regards to awards, but did have a question regarding the 2015 Meeting plenary speaker(s). Dave thought we have some great choices already for the plenary session in regards to the drought and its effect on fisheries with the state climatologist as well as the potential for Dr. Thomas Hardy (or perhaps Andy Samsom) from Texas State University as an additional speaker. Dave suggested we also get a perspective on the drought and its effect on coastal aquatic resources and suggested getting someone who could provide that aspect as a potential speaker. Kevin thought this was a good idea and would expand the breadth of the plenary session. Dave said he would get in contact with some colleagues who might be interested in participating.

Continuing Ed: (Dan Bennett)

- Dan reported that currently the top choice for the 2015 Meeting Continuing Education (CE) course is a workshop dealing with producing successful poster and/or Powerpoint presentations. This topic would be useful for student chapter members as well as a good review for the professional members attending. Dan said he did not have a speaker(s) for the talk but that Debbie Wade (TPWD) had offered her help if needed as well as having contacts with the UT-Tyler faculty who may be willing to participate.
- Dan mentioned an alternative CE course dealing with understanding the new Windows 8 platform but wasn't sure who would be a good choice to give the talk.

Editorial: (Dan Daugherty and Allison Pease)

- Allison reported that the 2014 Meeting Proceedings should be completed within the next month or so and to look for it on the TCAFS website. Proceedings for past TCAFS Meetings can be found at <http://sdafs.org/tcafs/tc-proceedings/>.

Endowments: (Dave Terre)

- No report.

History: (Michele Nations)

- Michele mentioned the recent unexpected loss of TPWD Inland Fisheries employee Rob Schmid, who was the hatchery manager at the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos, TX. Michele plans on preparing a memorial for Rob at the 2015 Meeting.

Internet: (John Taylor and Danny Lewis)

- Danny reported no changes since the July ExCom meeting.

Issues: (Niki Ragan and Mark Webb)

- No report.

Membership: (Debbie Wade)

- No report.

Newsletter Editor: (Kevin Storey)

- Kevin mentioned sending out a deadline (August 28th) to TCAFS Members, ExCom and Committee Chairs to submit reports, articles, etc. for the fall TCAFS Newsletter. Kevin requested Members help in promoting the 2015 Meeting so we get a big turnout for what looks like to be a great meeting.

Nominating: (John Clayton)

- Kevin reported hearing from John via email stating that he and Rick Ott had been working on potential candidates.

Note: Both the TCAFS President and Secretary-Treasurer positions will be up for election this coming year. Chapter members are encouraged to nominate fellow members and/or volunteer for nomination to an officer position or assist on chapter committees. The TCAFS couldn't function without the help by volunteers so here's your chance to get involved and make a difference!!

Pond Management: (Greg Binion)

- No report.

Publicity/Exhibits: (Jenny Oakley and Jake Norman)

- Jake reported that he and Jenny are actively sending out solicitation letters to acquire donations and sponsorships for the 2015 Meeting. Jake mentioned potential "big money items" for the raffle (e.g., rifle/shotgun, kayak, GoPro camera, and/or Yeti Cooler). Bruce mentioned contacting the Tyler Chamber of Commerce for financial assistance as well as developing a list of places to visit/attractions in the Tyler area for meeting attendees and their families.

Scholarships: (Mike Morgan)

- No report.

Student Outreach: (Mike Homer)

- No report.

Student Subunit Chapter Reports:

- Texas Tech University Student Subunit – No report.
- Texas A&M University Student Subunit – No report.

Old Business:

- No old business was discussed.

New Business:

- Dan asked who was in charge of TCAFS apparel (e.g., hats, t-shirts, collared shirts, etc.) as they had been offered in the past at meetings. Michele mentioned that if new ones were to be made and sold that they'd need the new TCAFS logo. Kevin was not sure if sale of TCAFS apparel had generated much revenue in the past. Jake said he would get with Jenny to discuss the option and if feasible, see if there is any available funding.
- Kevin mentioned receiving an email from Rick regarding a request from the host chapter (Georgia Chapter AFS) of the 2015 SDAFS Mid-year Meeting (January 28 – February 1, 2015 in Savanna, GA) for a financial contribution to assist with the meeting. Greg stated that we get these requests several times a year requesting donations to assist with meeting costs. The TCAFS membership has decided not to fund these meetings directly, but rather, pay for travel costs (up to \$500.00) for the winner of the Best Student Presentation Award to present their winning talk at the AFS annual meeting (or one of its Divisional meetings). The TCAFS is limited to donating \$1000.00 to the cause of our choice but there are restrictions placed on anything greater than \$500.00 (see section 5.5 of TCAFS Bylaws below).

Greg said since we get these requests fairly often, it would be best to give the requestors a response to respectfully decline the offer to contribute financially and the reason as to why. A form letter will be created to respond to this request as well as any future ones sent to the chapter.

- 5.5 The Executive Committee can approve individual funding requests up to \$500 without a vote of the membership up to a maximum of \$1,000 each calendar year. For requests larger than \$500, the Executive Committee will conduct a preliminary review. Requests clearing the preliminary review will be distributed electronically to the membership for comment and then presented to the membership for final approval at the annual business meeting. All requests must be electronically submitted to the Chapter President for Executive Committee review, unless originating from the floor during the annual Chapter business meeting.

Adjourn: Kevin entertained a motion to adjourn which was proposed by Danny and seconded by Michele. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56AM.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Paul (Rob) Schmid, II 1957 - 2014

By Carl Kittel

On July 29, 2014, the U.S. aquaculture community lost a respected member and leader when Robert Paul Schmid, II passed away in a work-related accident in San Marcos, Texas. Rob served as the Hatchery Manager for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery since 2008, where he and his team are known for their exceptional productivity and innovation in helping to rear fish for stocking purposes in Texas' lakes and reservoirs. From 1991 to 2007, Rob built and managed Simaron Freshwater Fish Inc., in Waller Texas. In the 1980s, Rob attended Florida Institute of Technology and earned a B.S. in Aquaculture. Rob then worked on numerous aquaculture research and production projects including the culture of Mahi Mahi in Florida and Hawaii before joining Simaron.



Rob was active in a number of aquaculture associations. He served as President of the American Tilapia Association from 2000 to 2004. Rob served as a Director of the Texas Aquaculture Association (TAA) from 1996 to 2008. Rob also served as the President of TAA from 2004 to 2006. Rob remained active with TAA, helping to organize their annual meetings through 2014.

Rob was also active in the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the World Aquaculture Society.

Rob was a member of the Industry Advisory Council of the Southern Region Aquaculture Center from 2004 to 2014.

Rob was born to Bob and Pat Schmid on Feb. 16, 1957 in Louisburg, Kansas. He served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Argentina, Newfoundland. Rob married his wife Cindy on Sept. 17, 1982 and together they enjoyed the outdoors and the arts.



Rob was a true lover of nature and the outdoors. He was an avid kayaker/river rat, honing his skills over many years with Boy Scouts and his close-knit group of kayaking friends.

Rob was also a great artist, painting and creating sculptures and other creations from supplies scavenged by him during his trips down the river, like the Lost Soles displays at the San Marcos Nature Center.

Rob is survived by his wife Cindy, daughter Sara, son Taylor, son-in-law J.W., daughter-in-law Lindsay, grandsons Brady, Elliott and another soon-to-be-born, as well as his parents and sister Krista Lee and her husband Scott. Memorial donations in Rob's name can be made to the San Marcos River Foundation (www.sanmarcosriver.org), the San Marcos Nature Center (San Marcos Nature Center, c/o Jenna Winters, 630 E. Hopkins, San Marcos TX 78666), or a charity of your choice.



Some of the items Rob collected on the San Marcos River.



Rob was able to use the items he collected to create a unique shoe tree.



One of Rob's tropical fish creations.

Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

➡ Surgery on a goldfish?



Dr. Tristan Rich of the Lort Smith Animal Hospital in Melbourne, Australia recently removed a tumor from the brain of a goldfish in a “high risk” surgery. The 10-year old fish, George, was put under general anesthetic in a procedure which lasted 45 minutes. During surgery, oxygenated pond water was pumped through the fish’s gills. The cost to George’s owner was \$200 which they preferred to pay instead of putting the fish to sleep. The large tumor was affecting the fish’s eating and swimming and he was being bullied by other fish. He is expected to live another 20 years and at \$10 a year that might be a good investment for a faithful pet!

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/animals/not-your-average-carp-tale-of-george-the-surgery-surviving-goldfish-goes-viral-20140918-10im3n.html>

➡ Up close and personal with a colossal squid

In December 2013 the crew of the fishing boat “San Aspiring”, while fishing for toothfish in Antarctica’s remote Ross Sea, caught a squid measuring 11 feet in length and weighing more than 770 pounds. The squid was caught at a depth of a mile below the surface. Although this squid is a giant, it’s not a giant squid, it’s a New Zealand colossal squid. Colossal squid are shorter and heavier than giant squid. Scientists will eventually sequence its entire genome to better understand how giant and colossal squids are related evolutionarily.



Captain John Bennett and his crew had the foresight to freeze this monster for later scientific examination. Ironically the first-ever adult colossal squid was caught by the same fishing boat off the coast of Patagonia in 2007 and is currently on display at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Eight months later, on September 16, 2014 the squid from the Ross Sea was unthawed and dissected by a team of squid experts in New Zealand. The dissection was led by Dr. Kat Bolstad, a squid expert from Auckland University of Technology’s Institute of Applied Ecology. The entire process was live-streamed and watched by about 142,000 people from 180 countries. If you’ve got 3 ½ hours to spare, you can view the procedure on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Yz_57uadUQ#t=33. Be patient, it takes the video about 7 minutes to start.

➡ The imperiled Yangtze River

Chinese sturgeon, *Acipenser sinensis*, were believed to exist more than 140 million years ago but they are now believed to be on the brink of extinction. These anadromous fish were historically found in China, Japan, and the Korea Peninsula. Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Fisheries Sciences found no evidence of



natural reproduction in Chinese sturgeon along the 3,900 mile Yangtze River as no young fish were observed swimming towards the sea. This is the first such observation since this information has been recorded for the past 32 years. In the 1980s there were at least several thousand sturgeon in the river but recent estimates put the number at around 100 fish. In the absence of natural reproduction, the population will

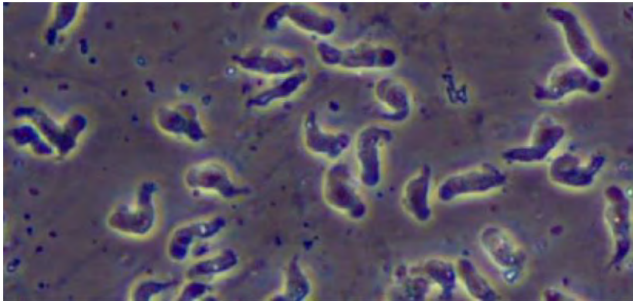
collapse. Chinese researchers blame the decline on increased levels of pollution on the Yangtze River as well

as the construction of dozens of dams. These fish are strictly protected by the Chinese government which describes them as a “national treasure” much like its mammalian counterpart, the giant panda. Efforts to release captive-bred fish into the river have had little effect and the issues that are causing its demise continue unabated.

Unfortunately the environmental problems on the Yangtze River have been responsible for the losses of other species. The World Wildlife Fund says in 2006 the Baiji dolphin (*Lipotes vexillifer*) was declared extinct and the finless porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*) is in danger of the same fate as a result of intensive fishing practices and pollution on the river. There are an estimated 1,200 to 1,800 finless porpoises remaining in the entire 618,000 sq. mile Yangtze basin.

➡ Taking a bath can get you in trouble

In 2014, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals has found samples of the amoeba *Naegleria fowleri* in water samples taken from the water supply of St. John the Baptist’s Water District No. 1, in a suburban New Orleans parish. Water samples were found to be out of compliance with an emergency rule requiring water systems to maintain a certain minimum disinfectant residual level needed to control the amoeba. This rule was instituted following the discovery of these potentially deadly brain-eating amoebas in the St. Bernard and DeSoto Parishes’ drinking water supply in 2013. *Naegleria fowleri* can cause a rare and devastating infection in the brain which has been responsible for three deaths in the St. Bernard and DeSoto Parishes since 2011

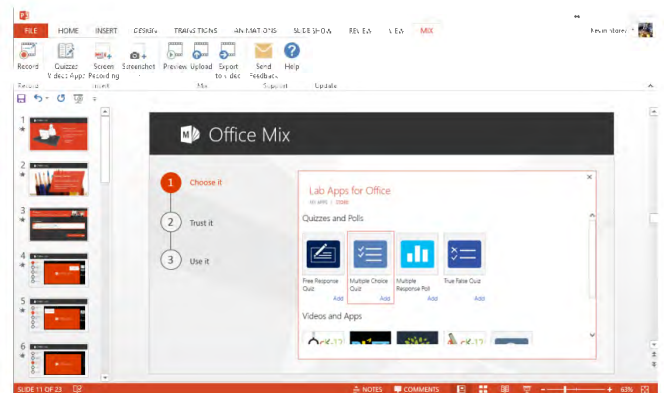


Residents have been advised to take precautions to avoid getting water into their nasal passages while bathing or swimming in a pool to prevent these amoeba from entering the brain. In the meantime, the parish Utilities Department has been ordered to perform a 60-day free chlorine burn on the water system, after which time it will be retested. According to officials despite a possible change in the smell and taste of the water, it will remain safe to drink after this treatment.

Software and services for the busy fisheries professional!

➡ Office Mix

Microsoft has introduced a customer preview of an add-in for PowerPoint 2013. Office Mix gives you the ability to create online, interactive presentations called “mixes”. This new tool enables teachers, or anyone who presents information, to create presentations that can be viewed anywhere on almost any device with an internet connection. This technology enables educators to reach students in new ways without having to learn yet another application. Alternatively Office Mix can be used to record presentations or meetings and send it to people who weren’t able to attend in person.



<https://mix.office.com/Gallery>

With Office Mix you can record audio or video of yourself presenting, write on slides as you speak to them, insert quizzes, polls, online videos, and more, all within PowerPoint. Once the mix is finished, you can upload it to the Microsoft cloud where you can share it with a select audience or the entire world! To get

started, you'll need Office 2013 or Office 365 SP1. If you've got an older version of Office, you can use the 30-day Office 365 Home trial <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/try> to put Office Mix through its paces. Since this is a customer preview, it may not be available in its present form indefinitely and it may evolve into a commercial product.

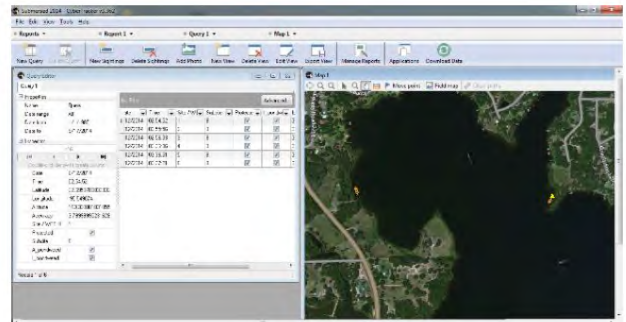
<http://blogs.office.com/2014/05/06/meet-office-mix/>

➤ CyberTracker comes to Android devices

GPS units have become indispensable in our lives at work and at home. Nowadays most people have access to these devices on their Smartphones and you can now harness the power of the GPS field data collection program CyberTracker on an Android tablet or Smartphone. Sorry but it's not made its way to iOS or Windows phones! This software has been available free of charge since 1997 but it used to be limited to legacy devices such as Windows Mobile units like the Trimble Geo XM or XT. If you have existing CyberTracker programs from an older device, you may have to modify the input screens for display on modern devices with touch screens.

If you are completely new to CyberTracker, first you need to install the application on your Windows desktop.

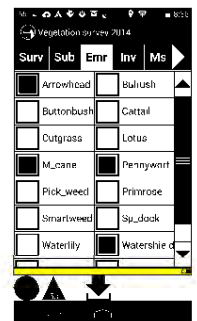
There are demo examples and tutorials available on the CyberTracker website (<http://www.cybertracker.org/>) to help you get started. When you complete the setup of your routine, it can be installed to the phone or tablet through CyberTracker. Before you can do that you will need to install the CyberTracker app on your Android device. You will need to copy the CyberTracker.apk file to the device and run it in a file manager app since it's not available in the Play Store. When I connected the phone to my computer running CyberTracker and attempted to install a routine to the device, the .apk was copied over automatically. You can do a web search to get help getting this done.



When I connected the phone to my computer running CyberTracker and attempted to install a routine to the device, the .apk was copied over automatically. You can do a web search to get help getting this done.

CyberTracker enables a user to collect a wide variety of attribute information along with georeferenced data so you can put an end to recording data on paper and combining it with waypoint information at a later date. When a survey is complete, connect the device to your computer with a USB to micro USB cable, and upload data to your computer within CyberTracker. The saved data are displayed on an aerial map and the attributes are summarized in a spreadsheet-like interface. Double-clicking on an attribute makes it visible in the spreadsheet. Once all of the relevant attributes are identified, from the spreadsheet side of the display, data can be exported in a number of formats including, Excel spreadsheet, CSV, Google Earth (KML) or a number of XML formats. Alternatively, if you are on the map side of the display you can export directly to a shapefile (*.shp) for incorporation into a GIS application, or the map can be exported as a graphic (.bmp or .jpg).

Within the settings on your Android device, you can select how you will collect location information (Settings, Location, Mode) whether using GPS, Wi-Fi, or mobile networks or with a combination of types. You can use CyberTracker on a non-contract Android device with no data plan. If you are interested in CyberTracker but don't have an Android device and you don't want to terminate the contract on your current Smartphone, tablets and non-contract phones can now be purchased for under \$100. One of the benefits of limiting your usage on CyberTracker to the GPS unit is that you won't incur any data charges. With a modern Smartphone you should be able to get accuracies of within 10 feet. If you need better accuracy you might have to invest in a more expensive device. If you opt to use an Android device in the field you will probably want to protect your investment from falls and water damage with a good quality case.



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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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Kevin Storey

2122 Old Henderson Highway

Tyler, Texas 75702

903-593-5077

E-mail: kevin.storey@tpwd.texas.gov

