



## President's message

by Mike Homer Jr.

I cannot believe the 42nd Annual Meeting is behind us and now we can set our sights on hosting the 2019 Southern Division meeting at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Reflecting on the last meeting, I have been thoroughly impressed at the continued dedication of our members to helping with the planning and implementation efforts of the meetings, fundraising, and the high-quality of work that has been conducted and presented. Thank you to our meeting sponsors, our guest speaker, our continuing education leaders, as well as to all of you who assisted with making this meeting possible. Lastly, thank you to those of you who attended, presented, and/or submitted abstracts.

At our meeting at the Hilton College Station, we had 210 members register and 232 attend our banquet, which is the second-highest attendance for a non-joint meeting since 2008. Attributed to the generosity of our membership and because of the efforts of our Publicity and Exhibits Committee, the auctions and raffles raised about \$10,595 that will help support the chapter's endowment for student scholarships – this is the second-highest amount raised! I'd like to thank our Past-President, Randy Rushin, for his service to TCAFS, which under his tenure as active President, the chapter achieved record attendance for the 2017 annual meeting in Corpus Christi as well as the highest record for fundraising for the chapter's endowment. Randy's mentorship as well as that from previous Past-President, David Buzan, have helped me have what seems as a seamless transition to the role as President. I'd also like to congratulate our new President-Elect, Dr. Dan Daugherty. With his leadership, the chapter EXCOM will be pressing on to addressing newly voted revisions to the chapter's bylaws and procedures and working with the SDAFS committees with planning efforts for SDAFS 2019.

During my tenure as President, I have some of goals that that I would like share that I think we can work towards that should benefit the chapter. First, I hope to work with the existing committee chairpersons to improve member involvement with our committees. Many individuals have voiced that that wish to be more involved with our chapter, and improved communications between the EXCOM, committee chairpersons, and the membership is crucial to succeed. I believe that there are many ways our members could help serve, and if you have a particular interest in a specific committee, I would encourage you to contact anyone on the



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EXCOM or the committee chairperson directly. Second, striving for continued growth of membership and improving diversity are goals I'd like to see our chapter strive for by broadening our scope of recruitment. I am confident that expanding our communications to non-traditional educational institutions, private-sector businesses, and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in our values and mission should yield some progress.

Recently, I attended a webinar on the AFS' stance on Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), and TCAFS as well as the other chapters have been charged to be a voice for support for this potential legislation that would benefit fish and wildlife conservation if it were to be enacted. If you are unfamiliar with the proposed legislation, I would encourage you to visit the AFS webpage <https://fisheries.org/recovering-americas-wildlife-act/> for more information. The Texas Chapter voted at the most recent business meeting that it would be signing a Letter of Support for the RAWA, but you can help by also signing your own letter of support. Links to fill a letter and send a letter to your local congressperson have been posted to AFS' page for RAWA. With each member's participation, we can be a great voice to advocate for this instrumental legislation that would greatly benefit the management of wildlife and fish populations.

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## President-Elect's message

*by Dan Daugherty*

Howdy! First, for those of you that attended our recent chapter meeting in College Station, I hope you found it both interesting and enjoyable. For those unable to attend, you missed a great meeting! We all owe our newly installed president, Mr. Michael Homer, the rest of the executive committee, our committee chairs and volunteers, the Hilton College Station and Convention Center, and the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau a great big thanks for the roles they played in putting on yet another successful meeting. Congratulations on a job well done!

Second, let me say that it is both an honor and a privilege to serve the chapter as president-elect for the coming year. Let me also say that I felt the same way about being on the ticket next to Dr. Kirk Winemiller – a gentleman and a scholar I hold in high regard. Thanks, Kirk, for your willingness to serve the chapter and all that you do for our profession! I look forward to working with you and the rest of the chapter in the coming years.



As many of you many know, one of the primary responsibilities of the president-elect is to lead the charge in planning next year's annual meeting. Next year, it's going to be a special one, as our chapter will be hosting the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society – the collective of 18 state and multi-state chapters and over 25 student subunits representing the southeastern US and Puerto Rico. As you might imagine, planning a meeting this size is no small task. With attendance in excess of 500 people, over 15 technical and standing committees, 5 to 10 workshops, and well over 150 oral and poster presentations, there's a lot to accomplish, including finding a suitable place to accommodate us. Fortunately, our chapter's long-standing relationship with Moody Gardens Hotel and Convention Center on Galveston Island continues, as they have agreed to partner with us to host the meeting January 24th – 27th, 2019. The details are still in the works, but suffice to say we have the place to ourselves, including the use of their aquarium for an evening



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social. A dedicated team of TCAFS members have graciously volunteered their time and talents for over a year now to put this meeting together, and with just under a year to go, we are in great shape to be ready for next year. One thing I'd like to make clear – our Texas Chapter meeting will be held conjointly with the Southern Division meeting. So, mark your calendars and stay tuned. Information will be available on the Texas Chapter webpage in the coming months.

I'm excited about my new role in the chapter, and looking forward to working with all of our membership to continue the excellence our chapter is known for. I encourage each of you to contribute to that excellence as well – either through service on a standing committee, assistance with next year's meeting, or simply planning to attend. Until next time, take care!

## Past-President's Report

By Randy Rushin

Please join me in congratulating Michael Homer, Jr. for planning an outstanding annual meeting! If you did not attend the convention in College Station, you missed one of the best TCAFS meetings in our chapter's history. Michael is a diligent, thoughtful, and detailed leader who will continue the legacy of growth, outreach, and professionalism of our organization.

Let's also congratulate our new president-elect, Dan Daugherty. You may not be aware of this, but Dan volunteered at the Kerrville meeting in 2016 to lead the planning efforts for Southern Division AFS. Under his leadership, the committee chairs have already made great strides towards organizing the 2019 SDAFS convention. I sat in on a meeting with the committee the other day, and our incredible group of dedicated TCAFS members are thinking of every last detail to make this the best and most attended SDAFS convention ever. I attended a convention at the recently renovated Moody Gardens a few months ago and was extremely impressed by the multi-million-dollar upgrades to their facilities. You'll want to make sure to attend – it's going to be special. And just in case you were unsure, yes, we need volunteers! Lots and lots of volunteers for this meeting...

I'll repeat this statement one more time - the one thing that has kept me involved in TCAFS for the past two decades is that our chapter has a unique culture that supports the growth and development of our student and professional members. We are dedicated to helping the next generation be successful contributors to the field of fisheries science. Our chapter is a forward-looking organization that is on a path of constant improvement - including meetings, presentations, collaborations, and fisheries science.

This is my last newsletter contribution, as I move on as a TCAFS past-president, so I want to take this opportunity to tell you all that I sincerely appreciate your support and confidence in my ability to lead this outstanding organization over the past couple of years. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve you in this capacity, and it is truly a highlight of my professional career.



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# Outstanding Fisheries Worker Awards - 2018

by Michele Nations, Awards Committee Chair

## **Fisheries Administration** – Spencer Dumont, TPWD Inland Fisheries



In his role as Regional Program Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife's East Texas and Coastal Region Spencer personifies the ideals of the servant leader. His focus is entirely on helping others achieve their goals to improve fishing for the anglers of Texas. Spencer has a rare combination of scientific knowledge, communication skills, critical thought processes, and humility that makes him both highly effective in his role and a joy and blessing to be associated with. As the Regional Program Director for Texas Parks and Wildlife's Inland Fisheries Management Region encompassing East Texas and the Texas Coast Spencer is responsible for oversight in a large and diverse area extending from the Ark-La-Tex through deep East Texas and west along the coast to Corpus Christi. Besides covering multiple eco-regions, Region 2 includes the Tyler, College Station, Corpus Christi, and Houston Metropolitan areas. Within this area Spencer mentors 8 work teams including the Regional Office group. These teams include 6

Fisheries Management Districts and the Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Team with statewide responsibilities and a multi-million dollar budget. Despite all of these responsibilities Spencer is always available to help with project planning, constituent issue resolution, or intensive field sampling.

## **Fisheries Management**– Alice Best, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Alice Best has a passion for natural resource management that drives her work. She views fisheries biology through an artist's eye and an ecologist's training. Her work on lotic systems in Houston is bringing knowledge of typically overlooked fisheries to the public, helping urban anglers connect to the ecosystems of which they are an integral part. Alice has utilized her background in graphic arts to develop a series of brochures to introduce community fisheries to Houston anglers with an understanding of the Houston Metropolitan area as a series of towns and cities interconnected by traffic corridors.



Alice's extraordinary talent is helping connect anglers across an avidity spectrum with resources they frequently didn't know existed close by. Alice brings a myriad of talents and a fresh perspective to Inland Fisheries Management. Although Alice clearly values traditional angling, she eagerly integrates non-traditional resources including lotic environments and non-native fishes into her concept of freshwater fisheries. In her relatively short career as a fisheries biologist, she has already created new tools to connect anglers to fisheries resources in the form of a very practical urban brochure model utilizing traffic flow and community structure. She has pushed the understanding of the ecology of Houston's Bayou System beyond any historic knowledge and she is striving to get the knowledge of these complex and very important ecosystems to the public in easily understood ways through social media, traditional media, and graphic arts using her broad communication skills. Alice is an important part of the solution to creating new methods of fisheries management for a changing fisheries landscape.



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## **Fisheries Management** – Niki Ragan-Harbison, TPWD Inland Fisheries



Niki Ragan – Harbison exhibits a spirit of cooperation and team building that allows her to create relationships and reach out to both traditional and non-traditional resource users in a process that few can master but is natural to her. Coupled with a background in outdoor recreation, a scientific thought process, and a deep desire for continuous learning Niki brings a valuable and unique skill set to the fisheries management table. Niki's perspective is always broader than what's traditional leading to outreach events using photo props, balloon fish hats, and other creative devices to bring science and angling to thousands of constituents that otherwise might never be reached. In addition, Niki brings critical thinking

into her research objectives to determine what techniques are truly effective in the long term for developing urban fishing. She has been an important part of Texas fisheries management throughout her career with Texas Parks and Wildlife at the Heart of the Hills Research Center, her graduate studies on coastal estuarine ecosystems at Sam Houston State University, and most recently, her role as a Fisheries Biologist at the TPWD College Station – Houston Inland Fisheries Management Office. Niki's gregarious personality, communication skills, and fisheries training have made her a crucial element in TPWD's efforts to better serve our urban constituents in the College Station and Houston areas. Niki has quickly helped the College Station – Houston Team integrate into a network of resource management partnerships in the Houston Metropolitan Area allowing them to multiply their efforts by being part of an enormous structure of governmental and non-governmental teams in one of the largest cities in the United States. Niki's constituent-oriented research interests are helping to develop the next generation of management strategies to refine our methods of developing angling in urban areas.

## **Fisheries Technical Support** – Carl Vignali, TPWD Inland Fisheries

Carl Vignali is a Renaissance Man with a wide variety of skills and interests that make him a rare asset as a Fisheries Technician. He brings knowledge and skills to work every day obtained from his graduate work with Paddlefish at Texas A&M, his past careers in construction and ranching, and his work with Parks and Wildlife Hatcheries. These talents have translated to a special project Carl is leading to try to establish a reproducing Channel Catfish population in a popular State Park lake utilizing surplus Catfish spawning structures no longer needed by A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery and the construction of a specialized urban electrofishing boat built from a boat surplus by another group. Every day Carl enriches the lives of everyone around him as well as their ability to better manage the fisheries resources of Texas. Although Carl has only been with Inland Fisheries Management for two years, the group



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sees his impact every day, whether sampling with a surplus electrofishing boat Carl obtained from the Division's contaminants group, setting fish habitat structures using a rebuilt concrete mixer he obtained or conducting research using surplus spawning structures he sourced. Carl's love of people, life, and natural resources truly brings joy to his team and adds a flair to their work that is Carl's distinctive mark, as well as leaving smiles on everyone's face wherever he goes.

**Fisheries Student** – Luke Bower, Texas A & M University



Luke Bower is an outstanding doctoral student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. A member of the Winemiller Aquatic Ecology Lab, Luke is researching the community ecology of fishes in streams at locations in Texas, eastern and southern US, and other continents. He has authored or coauthored 5 scientific journal articles, and presented papers at 13 conferences and symposia. Luke has obtained research funding from NSF, other grants and fellowships, and has demonstrated exemplary professional leadership through service on multiple university and professional committees, including organizing the annual ecological integration

Symposium at Texas A&M last year. Throughout his academic career, Luke has demonstrates exemplary professionalism, a strong work ethic, and a firm commitment to academic excellence.

**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** - Dakus Geeslin, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Dakus Geeslin is a professional aquatic scientist, stalwart of outreach and education, outstanding fisherman and renowned fishing instructor, and a great mentor and leader. Dakus earned bachelors and master's degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University where he studied fishes of the Angelina National Forest. He earned his chops as an aquatic ecologist in the streams and rivers in Colorado and returned to Texas developing expertise in water quality, environmental flows, water resources and policy development while working for the Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, where he currently serves as the Policy and Education Team Leader for Coastal Fisheries. Dakus also fosters conservation efforts through leadership roles in Trout Unlimited, Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited, Reel Recovery, Austin Fly Fishers, Bass Brigade, and Texas Brigades, to name a few. The dedication that Dakus has for fisheries conservation is rare, and it's even more unique to have the combined scientific skill, administrations, and education capabilities that he blends seemingly easy. Since joining TPWD, Dakus has promoted a shift from reaction based conservation to





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conservation delivery, effectively translating science to policy to action. For example, he led efforts to develop the Environmental Flow Information Tool and received substantial grant funding to implement this decision support tool in a geospatial framework to identify water rights and permits that bring the greatest conservation value to restoring and protecting environmental flows; new sources of funding were developed through the Great Plains LCC. Dakus also leads research efforts to identify instream flow needs for rivers and streams in Texas. For example, Dakus has taken a lead role in mentoring a PhD student at Texas Tech University working on Blue Sucker in the Colorado River. In support of this project, Dakus has contributed hundreds of hours in field work, outreach events, and manuscript editing.

**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** - Mike Morgan, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



Mike is a long-time member of TCAFS. For the past decade, he has served as Chair of the Scholarship Committee. During this time, he reviewed hundreds of applications to select deserving candidates to receive TCAFS scholarships. Interestingly, Mike was a recipient of a TCAFS scholarship at our meeting in 1999 and again in 2002. Mike Morgan is a coastal ecologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Coastal Fisheries Division in Dickinson. He conducts habitat assessments on proposed impacts to freshwater and estuarine habitats – including streams, wetlands, oysters, and seagrass – on the upper Texas coastal plain and provides recommendations to minimize habitat impacts. Mike received degrees in fisheries from Michigan State University (B.S.) and Texas A&M University (M.S.). He has been an active AFS member for 27 years including the Texas Chapter since 1998. He has served as the Texas Chapter's Scholarship Committee Chair for the last 10 years, as Vice President for the Texas A&M Chapter (1998-1999), and as Southern Division Representative for the Student Subsection (1998-1999). Several units within AFS have recognized Mike with honors, including the Skinner Memorial Award by the Education Section (1999 and 2001), Outstanding M.S. Student Award by the Texas A&M Chapter (2001).

**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** - Paul Fleming, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

For a number of years now, Paul has graciously volunteered his professional services as the TCAFS auctioneer during the annual meeting banquet, making it a point to attend - even in years when he has been unable to attend the rest of the meeting. Paul's enthusiasm and engaging style have been extremely entertaining, drawing larger and larger crowds each year. His efforts have greatly impacted the success of the auctions, in turn benefitting the fundraising efforts in support of the student scholarship programs. We hope this award can serve as a token of the Chapter's appreciation of Paul's skills, efforts, and dedication.



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**Special Recognition in Fisheries Research** – *Inland Fisheries AHE Team (John Findeisen, Michael Mayo, Bill Johnson, Jeffery Bowling, Ray Lenderman, Joe Moorhead, Shawn Malone)*



Following Hurricane Harvey's disastrous path was untold numbers of first responders and volunteers, risking their own safety and comfort to rescue thousands upon thousands of people left helpless by Harvey's unforgiving and relentless onslaught. A team from TPWD's Inland Fisheries Division had a particular set of skills, talents, and equipment ideally suited for the dangerous and unpredictable nature of flood-water rescues. Over several days in deep and sweltering SE Texas, sleeping on cots in gymnasiums and elementary school classrooms, this team rescued dozens of stranded folk, assisted with body recovery, and transported workers for powerline repair. This team exhibited remarkable

professionalism and compassion and provided an invaluable service to local and state law enforcement for Harvey's rescue operations in southeast Texas. These employees were true professionals and were extremely conscientious about how they operated their equipment and the service they provided to those in need.

**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work**– *Sarah Robertson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department*

Since joining the TPWD River Studies Program in 2013 as an Aquatic Biologist Sarah Robertson has assumed a lead role in planning, organizing, and delivering of semi-annual BioBlitz's (aka – bioassessments), in partnership with UT-Austin. Beginning in 2012, these bioassessments were a new initiative for TPWD, and were intended to support management needs of TPWD properties (e.g. - State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas), expand recreational initiatives such as TPWD's Texas Paddling Trails and River Access and Conservation Area Programs, and inform future research and conservation efforts through TPWD's Native Fish Conservation Area initiative.



Sarah's responsibilities have included serving as lead author on all eight of the resulting bioassessment reports, which include fish, aquatic macroinvertebrate, freshwater mussel, riparian, and instream habitat data, as well as recommendations for improving conditions for aquatic and riparian species and recreational use.

Under Sarah's leadership this initiative has resulted in the collection of fishes at 168 locations during eight bioassessments, resulting in over 25,000 records added to the UT Fishes of Texas dataset, including many sites that had not been sampled in many years, or were never previously sampled. The bioassessments have supported data-driven recommendations to multiple State Parks (Colorado Bend, Garner, Village Creek) and



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Wildlife Management Areas (Kerr, Alabama Creek, Alazan Bayou, Gene Howe, Matador), increasing consideration of species of greatest conservation need fishes in site management plans. The Cypress Basin Bioassessment is also expected to inform adaptive management of the Cypress Basin Flows Agreement, which has an objective of ensuring adequate instream flows to sustain the ecological, recreational, and economic value of Caddo Lake, its watershed, and the larger Cypress Basin.

Sarah has done a masterful job of leading and coordinating this initiative over the last five years. She has strengthened our partnership with the University of Texas at Austin, and her efforts have served as a catalyst for increased cooperation/collaboration among TPWD Inland Fisheries, State Parks, and Wildlife divisions, as well as many non-governmental organizations.

**Special Recognition in Fisheries Work** - TPWD Inland Fisheries Division's Watershed Conservation Program (i.e., Megan Bean, Preston Bean, Beth Bendik, Tom Heger, Melissa Parker, and Ryan McGillicuddy)



Human populations in Texas are now approaching 28 million, and projections show continued and rampant population growth into the future. As human populations expand and the state continues to transition from a rural to decidedly urban state, Texas will undoubtedly continue to experience rapid shifts in watershed land uses. These changes have the potential to degrade aquatic habitats and negatively affect fisheries resources. To confront this challenge, the TPWD Inland Fisheries Division's Watershed Conservation Program actively engages in watershed management processes to ensure consideration of fisheries and aquatic resources, and encourage watershed management practices that restore and preserve fish habitats.

The Watershed Conservation Program consults with private landowners, offering technical guidance on conservation best management practices to restore and preserve natural watershed conditions leading to healthy aquatic habitats for Texas fishes (e.g., natural land cover to support recharge of aquifers and natural spring flows, functional riparian zones that manage for natural levels of inputs of sediments and nutrients and provide connections between terrestrial and aquatic food webs). Since 2013, this technical guidance influenced management of 434,739 acres of private lands in focal watersheds of the Southern Great Plains, Edwards Plateau, and Chihuahuan Desert ecoregions, and guided specific conservation projects on those lands that resulted in restoration or enhancement of 49,661 acres of riparian and upland habitats. Collectively, these restoration projects provided direct benefits to more than 50 spring systems and over 360 miles of rivers and streams.

The Program has also consulted on individual development projects affecting 307 miles of rivers and streams and 6,344 acres of wetlands and lacustrine habitats, providing technical guidance and recommendations to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects to sport fishes, their habitats, and other aquatic resources. Additionally, the Program consulted on stream and wetland mitigation banks that proposed restoration or enhancement of 245 miles of streams and 33,256 acres of wetlands and lacustrine habitats.

The above-mentioned outcomes are simply incredible, especially for a staff of 6 individuals. I believe they are deserving of special recognition by TCAFS for their very impactful and meaningful role in conservation of Texas watersheds, fish habitats, and fisheries.

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## 2017 Student Scholarship Awards

### **TCAFS Scholarship: B.S. – Loicka Baille**

Loicka Baille is an international student from France and Lebanon, currently studying Ocean Engineering and Wildlife and Fishery Sciences at Texas A&M University. Through this curriculum, she hopes to work in the preservation and discovery of the oceans. She is especially interested in wave power technologies, ocean's pollution removal, ocean acidification and many other marine issues. In five years, she pictures herself working on a Master's in Marine Biology somewhere near the sea. This way, she will be able to apply her engineering formation to solve marine biological issues.



### **TCAFS Scholarship: B.S. – Elaine Chen**



Elaine Shen is currently a senior at Rice University earning her B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Her senior thesis investigates the fish biodiversity of nearshore Caribbean marine ecosystems using a combination of visual censusing and genomic approaches. In the past, she worked on quantifying the benthic diversity of an oil platform with the NOAA Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Galveston, Texas. Elaine is passionate about scientific communication through digital storytelling, journalism, and volunteering at outreach events. She recently finished teaching a weekly undergraduate course she developed on seafood and marine resource use. Ultimately, she hopes to conduct fisheries ecology research at the local and global level to better inform management practices and conservation initiatives.

### **TCAFS Scholarship: M.S. – Louisa Torrance**

Louisa Torrance is a graduate student at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi in the Fisheries and Mariculture Program. Born and raised in Texas, she earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Biology (emphasis in Freshwater and Marine), and worked as an 8th grade science teacher from 2012 to 2016. She is the AFS 2017/18 Southern Division Representative for the Student/Early Career Subsection and a member of the AFS Continuing Education Committee. Her research project titled "The Importance of Low Salinity Habitat of Red Drum" uses otolith chemistry and stable isotope analysis to learn how red drum are using tidal creeks and rivers in the Nueces and Mission-Aransas Estuaries and has allowed her to experience many beautiful mornings out on the bays. She would love to work for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in the Coastal Fisheries division as a Natural Resource Specialist, eventually moving into a management position.





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### **TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Yasmin Quintana Morales**



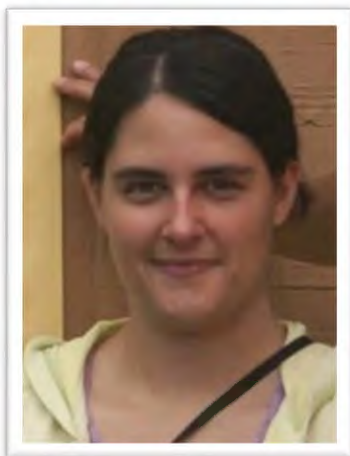
Yasmin Quintana is earning her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University at College Station. She is currently investigating the effects of the invasive armored catfish in the native fish community of the Usumacinta river in Guatemala. Yasmin is working towards the creation of a research department focused on hydrobiological resources in the Center of Conservationist Studies in the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala, with partnership from different sectors at national and international level. She would like to promote ecological and interdisciplinary research in aquatic ecosystems and fisheries in developing countries. Previous work includes studies on dynamics of fisheries in Guatemala and Equatorial Guinea.

### **TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Travis Richards**

Travis Richards is currently working on his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University at Galveston with Dr. David Wells. His research interests include marine community dynamics and food web ecology with an emphasis on predator-prey relationships, food web structure, and the role that animal movement and migration plays in forming trophic linkages between spatially distinct habitats and communities. For his dissertation Travis is studying the trophic ecology of fishes and invertebrates inhabiting the deep sea within the northern Gulf of Mexico. He is particularly interested in understanding the importance of diel vertical migration in forming trophic linkages between epi-, meso- and bathypelagic assemblages and in assessing connectivity between deep-pelagic and deep-demersal fauna in the DeSoto Canyon Region of the Gulf. Following his work at Texas A&M - Galveston, Travis plans to continue his career in fisheries research through a post-doctoral position.



### **TCAFS Scholarship: Ph.D. – Andria Salas**



Andria Salas is earning her PhD at The University of Texas at Austin. Andria's research interests are driven by how species interact in complex ways with each other and their habitat. Her masters work investigated the indirect effects in trophic and evolutionary networks of species at the ecosystem scale. Andria's current dissertation research explores how larval reef fishes use acoustic cues produced by reef-dwelling organisms as navigational signals to orient to settlement sites. Her work explores each level of the question by studying the temporal and spatial patterns of sound production, how these sounds propagate, and how they are received by larval fishes. Andria will next join the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service in the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program. She will be in the Office of Habitat Conservation working on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill restoration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.

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## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Derek Bolser**

Derek Bolser is currently a Master's student in Dr. Brad Erisman's lab at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (UTMSI). His work thus far has focused on using aggregating behavior to improve data quality for stock assessment. He recently completed a study intended to improve individual growth estimation for data-poor fisheries, and currently uses active acoustics to estimate fish biomass on offshore petroleum platforms in the northern Gulf of Mexico. He plans to enter the PhD program at UTMSI and continue this type of research. Ultimately, he hopes to improve fishery management in the Gulf of Mexico by leading an active research program in an academic or governmental setting.



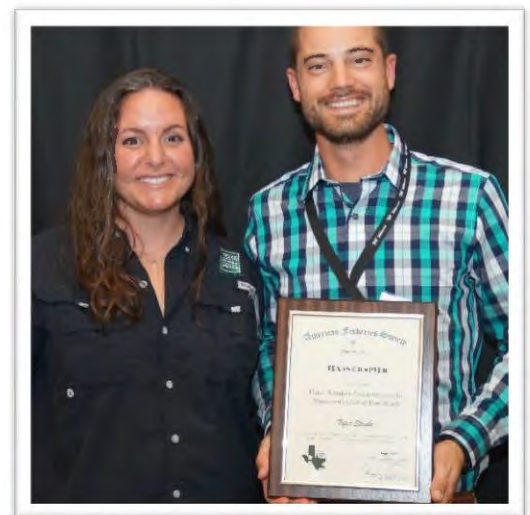
## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Michelle Bromschwig**



Michelle Bromschwig is working towards her M.S. degree in Fisheries and Mariculture at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Her thesis work seeks to describe the larval fish food web near a coastal inlet of Texas. Michelle has a broad interest in the ecology of fishes and the management of essential fish habitat, especially for early life stages. Upon completing her Master's, Michelle hopes to work for a state agency in fisheries independent monitoring.

## **Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Tyler Steube**

Tyler Steube is completing his M.S. in Fisheries at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. Under Dr. Ben Walther, he is investigating the effects of seasonal hypoxia on the feeding ecology of demersal fish in the northern Gulf of Mexico using stable isotopes. This research integrates otolith microchemistry with trophic webs for a more comprehensive understanding of environmental resilience. Tyler has served as instructor for conservation education in the Great Lakes, Florida Keys and the Bahamas. He is excited to pursue research using natural markers for stock management while working alongside the public to achieve sustainable fisheries. Upon graduation, Tyler will pursue employment as a coastal fisheries scientist for an agency in the Gulf of Mexico or Southeastern United States.





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## Harry Tennison Scholarship: M.S. – Jacob Wright



Jacob Wright is earning his M.S. at Texas Tech University. Jacob has been previously employed by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. During his time there, he gained firsthand experience on the challenges state Agencies face when managing and protecting natural resources. His current master thesis research will focus on evaluating the feeding ecology of a non-native Naked Goby population in the Concho River near San Angelo, Texas. He is investigating their potential niche overlap with native benthic species, such as the Bigscale and Texas Logperch, using gut content analysis and stable isotope analysis. Jacob's career goals are to be employed by a state or federal agency, or consulting firm as a fisheries biologist. In this role he intends to use sound science to develop effective management plans, and do his part to educate the public about the beauty in their own back yard.

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## 2018 Clark Hubbs Student Research Award – Amanda Pinion

Amanda Pinion receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Kevin Mayes (left), of the Clark Hubbs Committee. Amanda is a PhD student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University and her major advisor is Dr. Kevin Conway. She is working on assessing relationships among populations of Sand Shiner, *Notropis stramineus*, (as it is currently known) and conducting taxonomic revision while addressing issues of species delimitation. This morphological and molecular investigation could help clarify the relationships and identities of several potentially genetically distinct and geographically isolated lineages.



Image: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ANotropis\\_stramineus.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ANotropis_stramineus.jpg)

Attribution: By Ellen Edmonson and Hugh Chrisp (<http://pond.dnr.cornell.edu/nyfish/fish.html>) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

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Thanks again to all of our active TCAFS members who participated in this year's fundraising efforts. We raised over **\$10,000** to be allocated for student scholarships that help aid our pioneering fisheries scientists of the future. Please join us for next year's festivities at the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society meeting in Galveston, TX!



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## 2018 Student Scholarship award winners



Endowments Chair Dave Terre (rear left) and Scholarship Committee Chair Jennifer Butler (rear right) pose with 9 of the 2018 student scholarship winners. Front row (left to right) Elaine Chen, Michelle Bromschwig and Yasmin Quintana Morales, middle row (left to right) Derek Bolser, Travis Richards, Louisa Torrance, and Loicka Baille, and back row, (center left to right) Jacob Wright and Tyler Steube. Andria Salas could not make the meeting.

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## 2018 Best Presentation and Poster Awards

### Professional poster:

“American Eel: utilizing modern techniques to assess conservation status in Texas” by Casarez, M., S. Curtis, D. A. Hendrickson, A. E. Cohen, K. Mayes, G. P. Garrett, and F. D. Martin

### Professional presentation:

“Loiterers, leavers, and leptokurtosis: synthesizing movement ecology of Guadalupe Bass *Micropterus treculi*” by Perkin, J., J. E. Pease, and T. Grabowski.

### Student poster:

“Salinity adaptation in golden alga” by Richardson, E., and R. Patiño.

### Student presentation:

“Mercury body burden and maternal transfer, egg quality and fecundity of Alligator Gar in the lower Trinity River: Are bigger fish always better for recruitment?” by Harried, B. L., D. J. Daugherty, D. Neeley, T. M.



## Presentation Award Winners from 2017 Meeting in Corpus Christi

### Professional poster:

“Impacts of Deepwater Horizon crude oil exposure on the swimming performance of juvenile and young adult Mahi-Mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*)” by Mager, Ed, J. D. Stieglitz, D. Nelson, R. M. Heuer, G. K. Cox, D. D. Benetti, D. A. Crossley II, and M. Grosell, University of North Texas.



### Professional presentation:

“Are Age Estimates from Longnose Gar and Spotted Gar Sagittal Otoliths, Pectoral Fin Rays, and Branchiostegal Rays Accurate?” by Buckmeier, Dave, R. Snow, N. Smith, and C. Porter, TPWD, Inland Fisheries, Heart of the Hills Research Station.

*Randy Rushin (left, TCAFS President) and Michele Nations (right, Awards Committee Chair) pose with the Best Professional Presentation Award winner, Dave Buckmeier.*

### Student poster:

“Identifying the most efficient host fish for the Texas Fatmucket (*Lampsilis bracteata*) for captive breeding” by Seagroves, L. A., and A. N. Schwalb, Texas State University.

### Student presentation:

“Movements and demographics of Blue Sucker in the lower Colorado River, Texas” by Acre, Matthew, T. B. Grabowski, D. Geeslin, and A. Pease, Texas Tech University.

*Randy Rushin (left, TCAFS President) and Michele Nations (right, Awards Committee Chair) pose with the Best Student Presentation Award winner, Matthew Acre*





Postcards from College Station





## TCAFS swag





### Online Store



\*\*\*Open Feb 2 – Mar 19, 2018\*\*\*

Item	Minimum Donation	Sizes	Print Type
Short-sleeve T-shirt	\$18-19	S – 5XL	Screen Print
Long-sleeve T-shirt	\$21-22	S – 5XL	Screen Print
Trucker Cap	\$20	OSFA	Embroidery
Beanie	\$15	OSFA	Embroidery



- T-shirts available with full color logo or whitewashed logo
- Items will be printed & shipped after store closes on Mar 19
- You will receive your items the second week of April
- Pay online with a credit card + small shipping fee
- A minimum of 12 shirts must be ordered by the Chapter for shirts to be produced!
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## SAVE the DATE!

# INSTREAM FLOW COUNCIL FLOW 2018

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## Managing Rivers, Reservoirs, and Lakes in the Face of Drought

Practical Tools and Strategies for Sustaining and Protecting Ecological Values of Water

Hilton Fort Collins, Fort Collins, Colorado, April 24-26, 2018

<http://www.instreamflowcouncil.org/conferences-flow-2018/>



**INSTREAM FLOW COUNCIL**

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# Texas Chapter AFS Annual Business Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2018

Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, College Station, Texas

by Niki Ragan-Harbison, Secretary Treasurer

**Call to Order:** by TCAFS Past President Dave Buzan at 12:03 pm.

**Determination of a quorum:** Yes, by Niki Ragan-Harbison

**President's Report:** (Dave Buzan for Randy Rushin)

- Chapter president Randy Rushin became ill and could not attend the business meeting and Past President Dave Buzan officiated in his stead. Dave Buzan thanked everyone who made the meeting possible on Randy Rushin's behalf.

**SDAFS Officer Update:** (Craig Bonds)

- 2018 meeting will be March 7-11 in San Juan, Puerto Rico
- AFS Disaster Relief Assistance was offered to SDAFS members affected by recent storms, but no requests were received
- Fundraising efforts for Puerto Rico are ongoing through the Society's donations link on their page. Funds are being raised for 3 main purposes:
  - o Travel support for Puerto Rico residents to the SDAFS 2018 meeting.
  - o Hands-on service day planting red mangroves in bays/estuaries to help provide storm surge buffers.
  - o Build up the capacity for the AFS Disaster Relief Fund for future disasters.
- Allocated \$6,000 for hotel rooms to support student travel to Puerto Rico.
- Donated \$1,000 to support Pollution Committee's book publishing costs (*Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills*)
- AFS Student Subunit Guidelines are on SDAFS site
- New Webmaster helping with website migration and development
- Division listserv for disseminating info on jobs, assistantships, conferences, funding opportunities, grants, etc. – contact if you have info to send out.
- 2019 – SDAFS coming to Galveston, 2020 – SDAFS coming to Little Rock, AR, 2021 – Virginia Chapter hosting, 2022 – South Carolina Chapter hosting
- Society Meeting: Atlantic City, NJ August 2018, Reno, NV in 2019
- Society goals:
  - o Increase diversity in our profession
  - o Improve communications – Wiley is the new publisher
  - o Improve social media impact – get scientific info to the public and to policy makers
  - o Education – increasing continuing ed. opportunities through webinars and other distance learning efforts

## Committee Reports

**Awards/ History/ Social Media** – Michele Nations (present)

- 50 judges, 76 presentations (poster and oral)
- History is ongoing with record collection and documentation
- Facebook Admins have increased – Stephen and Stephanie
- Student helping with Instagram
- Getting ready to start advertising for SDAFS/TCAFS 2019



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### **Continuing Education** – Lynn Wright (present)

- Sessions went well
- Any suggestions on Continuing Ed. sessions for the future are welcome.

### **Editorial** – Dan Daugherty and Allison Pease (both present)

- Allison - Proceedings are in process, new Google Docs submission will help speed up process in future
- Dan –
  - This year had 80 total presentations submitted (about par for last 5 years) - 42 oral presentations, 38 posters
  - First year for online abstract submission and registration – couple hiccups were fixed as they were discovered, but smooth process overall
  - Taking feedback on how to improve online process and how to adjust the program to fit in more papers – consistently getting more abstracts than we have time for
  - Changed 20-minute talk slots to 15, extended the day, cut down the wide-ranging plenary session, and we still can't fit everyone it – thoughts on cutting plenary session to 30 minutes or including a speed session? Any other ideas welcome.
  - TX Chapter is hosting Southern Division next year January 24-27th on Galveston Island at Moody Gardens.
  - 15-20 people have been working since September to get the ball rolling on SDAFS meeting planning
  - Room rates (fed and state gov. rates) are locked in and unlimited in number
  - Moody is comping our social at the aquarium, including behind the scenes tours.
  - Presentation to be given at the business meeting in Puerto Rico to invite members to attend SDAFS 2019
  - Let Dan or other committee chairs know if you'd like to serve on a committee!

### **Endowments** – Dave Terre (present)

- Making great progress with scholarship endowment fund
- Received about \$21,000 in donations in 2017; \$15,000 from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation, \$6,000 from the Sportsmans Club of Ft. Worth
- In 2017 we gave \$15,500 in scholarships including the Clark Hubbs scholarship; we did the same this year
- We invested about \$17,720 in the endowment fund in 2017
- We had a 12% gain in investments (record year) with about \$36,000 earnings on our investments in 2017, and our costs were about \$4,000 in fees
- Ending balance for 2017: \$330,498.00
- Sportsmans Club of Ft. Worth is a pass-through grant – no money is invested in our endowment, just increases the amount of scholarships we can give
- San Antonio River Authority Memorial Internship (in memory of Michael Gonzalez), this year will be the 6th year of the internship, is exclusive to TCAFS B.S. student members

### **Internet** – Sarah Haas and John Taylor (both present)

- Google search for “Texas Chapter of AFS” takes you to the old page on the SDAFS page
- Link now at the bottom of the old page to direct people to the new page
- Algorithms were changed in Word Press so that the more we search for TCAFS, the more it comes up in searches
- Everything should be up to date now, send any new updates to Sarah
- Videos from 2018 meeting will be edited and uploaded in the few weeks after the meeting
- We were using Camtasia 7 for past several years, but won't work on 64-bit machines, so we upgraded to Camtasia 9.1
- Hilton CS AV people were awesome to work with.

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**Issues** – Mark Webb and Niki Ragan-Harbison (both present)

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Attempt to create a 21st century funding resource for non-game species – woefully underfunded species
- Existing \$1.3billion revenue stream from energy development on federal lands – bill drafted to use that money towards conservation of non-game species
- Goal is to “keep common species common”
- TPWD created report on how Texas would leverage those funds, titled: “Sustaining our State's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, Conservation Delivery through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act”
- Need advocacy

**Membership** – Debbie Wade (present)

- 294 members prior to 2018 meeting; 87 students, 264 professionals

**Newsletter** – (Kevin Storey)

- Deadline of Feb 16th for newsletter submission
- Anyone not getting the newsletter can download the last version from the website and send Kevin an email to have their name added to the Chapter's Google Groups
- Anyone and everyone can send in articles with pictures to Kevin to put in the newsletter

**Nominating** – Dan Bennett (present)

- 85 total votes – higher than last year, but still only about 1/3 of membership
- Rule identified this year – to vote on TCAFS issues, must be a Society member
- Dan Daugherty is the new President-Elect

**Pond Management** – Dan Bennett for Greg Binion (not present)

- Been meeting with private pond management groups to work on edits to the pond management manual
- Looking to send out the new manual next year

**Publicity/Exhibits** – Stephen Curtis (present) and Stephanie George (not present)

- Thank you to all who helped procure donations or donated items yourselves!
- Special thanks to TAMU and TAMUCC for your help and active participation in the meeting!
- Online store is open for hat, t-shirt, and beanie purchases. More colors available!
- Getting ready for 2019 meeting to start getting sponsorships and donations

**Scholarships** – Jennifer Butler (present)

- 38 applications received this year (probably half came in the last five hours before the deadline); 10 scholarship recipients
- Increasing university contacts and Michele helping advertise scholarships on social media – hope to have more applicants next year

**Student Outreach** – Josh Perkin (present)

- Thanks for all who helped organize the student lunch
- 43 students & 41 mentors this year – Thank you to all who served as mentors!
- We have 4 subunits: Texas A&M, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Texas Tech (currently inactive), and Tarleton State. There are a number of allied groups: Texas State Aquatic Biology Club, Texas Christian University Aquatic Biology Club, Dr. Guillen's group with University of Houston Clear Lake, TAMU Galveston.

**Student Subunit Chapter Reports;**

- **TAMUCC**
  - o 3rd year as a subunit



- o Tyler – President, Michelle – Secretary/Treasurer, Holly
- o 20 members, mostly grad students
- o Lots of Events:
  - ✦ Spring Beach Cleanup 3x year – adopted the beach
  - ✦ Louisa and Tyler presented at the Tampa Society meeting
  - ✦ Received \$1k for travel from a local fisheries enhancement organization – will work to maintain and further that partnership
  - ✦ Girl Scouts outreach
  - ✦ Booth at film festival and campus sustainability day
  - ✦ Flowerbluff Elementary math and science night
  - ✦ \$5k operating budget award from Harte Research Institute – used for merchandise to sell and for outreach events (PVC monofilament recyclers and lesson plan development for elementary schools)
  - ✦ \$1k for travel to TCAFS – travel award for 9 members from student organization council
  - Have \$1,700 in account, goal is to have \$2k and be able to provide 2 - \$250 scholarships to student subunit members
- **TAMU**
  - o Vitaly – President,
  - o Guest speakers list for last semester: Dr. Perkin, Pond Management professional, Aquaculture professional, and Beth Silvy
  - o Beth Silvy gave oral presentation, Matthew Madewell and a forestry science student gave a poster
  - o Fundraiser raised \$500 with \$380 profit – used to cover 9 students meeting expenses
  - o Soliciting hosts for TAMU AFS trips
  - o 1969 – TAMU AFS officially recognized as a subunit – wanting to partner with TAMU Alumni – get with Vitaly

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Niki Ragan-Harbison:**

- Beginning balance as of 1/1/2017: \$27,295.14
- Total Income for 2017: \$68,771.24
- Total Expenses for 2017: \$35,691.60
- Total Transferred to Endowment Fund: \$11,720.00
- Ending balance as of 12/31/2017: \$48,654.78
- \$10,494.50 raised from raffle and auction
  - o (Budget for 2017 financial details shown immediately following minutes in newsletter)

**Awards:**

- Plaque given to Michael Homer for appreciation for service as Secretary/Treasurer for the 2016 & 2017 meetings
- (Randy Rushin not present to receive President's plaque)

**Old Business (Dave Buzan):**

- Update to Chapter Bylaws and Procedures, David Buzan
  - o Procedures were last updated in 2011, Bylaws in 2012
  - o Comments were received over winter and spring 2017
  - o Text was condensed to read that only society members may vote on chapter business, hold office, or chair a committee
  - o Change was made to allow Excom to approve up to \$2,500 spending (in \$500 increments) without a chapter vote
  - o Tom Lang motioned to approve changes to bylaws, Kirk Winemiller seconded, motion approved
  - o Dave Terre clarified that the goals of the endowment fund were to build the account until it reached \$5-600,000 so that we would always be able to give student scholarships – due to not being able to in

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years past – text was changed to read that “a minimum of” or “at least” \$6,000 of meeting profits would be transferred to the endowments fund

- o No vote needed for the procedures – EXCOM can vote to accept changes/final version

**Installation of Officers:**

- Randy Rushin is now the Past President, Mike Homer is now President, and Dan Daugherty is President-Elect
- Niki Ragan-Harbison is still Secretary/Treasurer for one more year

**New Business**

- Consideration of Donation to Instream Flow Council Conference
  - o Solicitation for donation to the April 2018 meeting – “Managing Rivers, Reservoirs, and Lakes in the Face of Drought” Ft. Collins, CO
  - o Tom Lang made motion to donate \$500, John Taylor seconded, motion passed.
- Support to Puerto Rico AFS
  - o No motion to support SDAFS Puerto Rico further
  - o Encourage members to donate as individuals
- Resolution to Recovering America’s Wildlife Act – Rick Ott made motion to prepare TCAFS statement of support, Tom Land seconded, motion passed
- Debbie Wad made motion to continue to support Bass & Coastal Brigades as a standing/annual support (\$500 to each to sponsor 1 student for each like we have done in the past), John Taylor seconded, motion passed – needs to be put in procedures as a standing line item (EXCOM can approve)

**Adjourn:** Dan Daugherty made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Levi Sparks seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:08 pm.







# Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

## January 1 - December 31, 2017 Financial Statement

<b>Starting Balance as of 1/1/2017</b>		<b>\$27,295.14</b>
<b>Income</b>		
2017 Interest	\$42.54	
2017 Meeting Income	\$35,180.33	
2017 TCAFS Collected Dues & AFS Rebate	\$311.37	
2017 Member Donations	\$50.00	
2018 Meeting Income & Membership Dues	\$24,187.00	
Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation* (*15,000 Donated)	\$9,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$68,771.24</b>
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$96,066.38</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Awards		
Scholarships	\$8,000.00	
Plaques & Certificates	\$790.00	
Best Student Presentation Travel Reimbursement	\$326.82	
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>\$9,116.82</b>	
Annual Meetings		
Holiday Inn Downtown Marina, Corpus Christi, TX (2017)	\$19,590.45	
2017 Meeting - Cash Bank	\$300.00	
2017 Meeting Supplies & Printing	\$1,912.73	
2017 Raffle Items – Ruger & Bennelli Guns	\$847.00	
Meeting Deposit – Moody Gardens (SDAFS Meeting 2019)	\$0.00	
<b>Total Annual Meeting</b>	<b>\$22,650.18</b>	
Other		
2017 Chapter Insurance (AFS)	\$150.00	
AFS Skinner Award Contribution	\$500.00	
SDAFS 2018 Contribution to Puerto Rico AFS	\$500.00	
CPA for 2016 Tax Preparation (Gollub, Morgan, Peddy)	\$1,400.00	
Bass & Coastal Brigades Contributions (\$500 each)	\$1,000.00	
SDAFS Warmwater Streams Committee Contribution	\$250.00	
Postage Stamps & Shipping Expenses	\$115.60	
Bank & Check Fees	\$9.00	
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$3,924.60</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$35,691.60</b>
<b>Income – Expenses</b>		<b>\$60,374.78</b>
<b>Money Transferred</b>		
TCAFS Endowment Fund		\$11,720
<b>Ending Balance as of 12/31/2017</b>		<b>\$48,654.78</b>

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# Thank You to our Student Scholarship Sponsors!

The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation  
The Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth  
San Antonio River Authority

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Additional Support From

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Special Thanks to the Bryan-College Station  
Convention & Visitors Bureau!

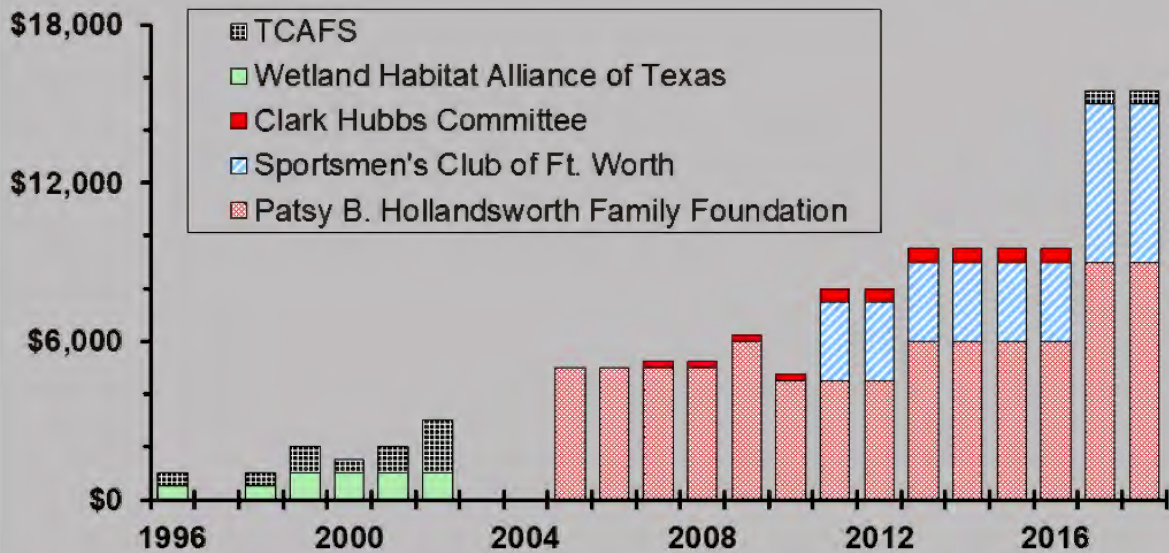
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## Sources of funding for TCAFS Scholarships and amount paid to students (1996-2018)



### Michael Gonzales Memorial Internship: A 5-Year Partnership Between the San Antonio River Authority and the TCAFS





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## Opportunities to Expand the Scope and Scale of Fish Conservation in Texas through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

*By Tim Birdsong, Chief of Habitat Conservation, Inland Fisheries Division, TPWD*

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act, under consideration by U.S. Congress, has the potential to provide a substantial and unprecedented level of financial investment in the restoration and conservation of at-risk species in Texas and nationally.

Congress currently requires each U.S. state and territory to assemble and routinely update a State Wildlife Action Plan. Each Plan represents a proactive, comprehensive strategy to conserve fish and wildlife diversity. The Plans emphasize actions necessary to restore and preserve populations of at-risk species and prevent the need for their listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Texas Conservation Action Plan (i.e., the State Wildlife Action Plan for Texas; <https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/tcap/>) identifies 1,310 species considered at-risk of local or statewide extirpation or extinction. These species are referred to as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (<https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/land/tcap/sgcn.phtml>).

Current federal funding for implementation of State Wildlife Actions Plans is provided through State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Programs, which total approximately \$60 million in annual funding. A recent national survey determined that on average, each state would require an additional \$26 million annually, \$1.3 billion collectively, to effectively implement conservation measures identified in State Wildlife Action Plans.

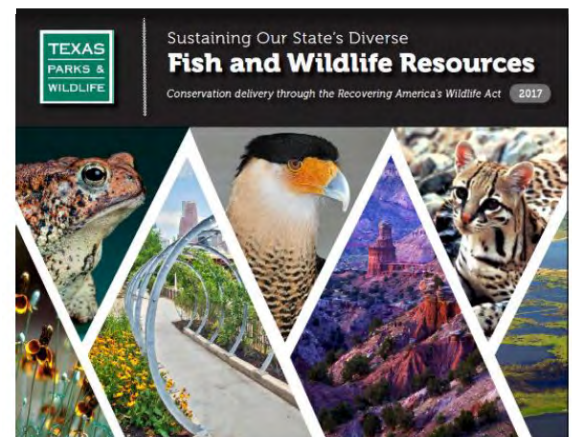
The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 4647), introduced by Representatives Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), seeks to address this funding shortfall by dedicating \$1.3 billion annually to implement State Wildlife Action Plans. The identified funding source for this proposed investment is existing royalties paid to the federal government from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters.

Passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide more than \$63 million annually for conservation of Texas Species of Greatest Conservation Need. This funding would help fill critical research needs, establish monitoring programs, restore or enhance degraded habitats, restore connectivity in fragmented rivers and other natural landscapes, preserve intact habitats through conservation easements, manage invasive species, propagate and repatriate fish and wildlife populations, and deliver a multitude of other actions necessary to restore and preserve focal species and their habitats.

In anticipation of the passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has assembled strategies for leveraging and investing these resources to maximize their impact. This strategy is outlined in a report entitled "Sustaining Our State's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources: Conservation Delivery through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act." To obtain a copy, visit: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/about/recovering-americas-wildlife-act>

At the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in College Station, the membership voted unanimously to authorize the Chapter's Executive Committee to draft a resolution supporting passage of the Recovering's America's Wildlife Act.

For more information about what this would mean for Texas, and to find out how to help, visit: [www.txwildlifealliance.org/](http://www.txwildlifealliance.org/) or <http://ournatureusa.com/>



## Student Opportunities

### ❖ AFS Best Student Paper/ Poster Symposium

Apply to participate in the Best Student Paper/Poster Symposium at the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, August 19-23 in Atlantic City, NJ

#### Best Student Oral Presentation – by Friday March 23rd:

- 1) Self-identify during the online abstract submission
- 2) Upload both a standard AND an extended abstract. Examples available at the Education Section website:  
<http://education.fisheries.org/awards/best-student-presentation-and-poster/>
- 3) Arrange for your advisor to submit an e-mail to the symposium co-chairs indicating that the study is at a stage appropriate for consideration for this award:  
Only student research projects at or near completion will be considered for the Best Student Oral Presentation Award

#### Best Student Poster Presentation – by Friday March 23rd:

- 1) Self-identify during the online abstract submission
- 2) Upload only a standard abstract
- 3) Arrange for your advisor to submit an e-mail to the symposium co-chairs indicating that the study includes data analysis representing either ongoing or completed work

No extended abstract is required to be considered for the Best Student Poster Presentation.

The Best Student Paper Symposium will be held Monday (8/20) morning and afternoon and the Best Student Poster Symposium will be held on Monday (8/20) evening. Award recipients will be announced at the AFS Business Meeting on Wednesday (8/22). **Attendance at AFS Business Meeting Required!**

For more information, including abstract examples, go to the “Best Student Presentation and Poster Awards” page:

<http://education.fisheries.org/awards>

We look forward to reviewing your applications and if you have any questions, please contact your 2018 student paper/poster symposium co-chairs:

Trent Sutton ([tmsutton@alaska.edu](mailto:tmsutton@alaska.edu))

Amanda Rosenberger ([rosenbergera@missouri.edu](mailto:rosenbergera@missouri.edu))

Dan Shoup ([dshoup@okstate.edu](mailto:dshoup@okstate.edu))





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## 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, <http://sd.fisheries.org/tcafs/> or by contacting Deborah Wade, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2234, [Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto: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.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*PRESIDENT* ..... Michael Homer  
*PRESIDENT-ELECT*..... Dan Daugherty  
*PAST-PRESIDENT*..... Randy Rushin  
*SECRETARY-TREASURER*..... Niki Ragan-Harbison

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

*AWARDS*..... Michele Nations  
*CONTINUING EDUCATION* ..... Lynn Wright  
*EDITORIAL*..... Dan Daugherty & Allison Pease  
*ENDOWMENTS*..... Dave Terre  
*HISTORY*..... Michele Nations  
*INTERNET*..... Sarah Haas / John Taylor  
*ISSUES* ..... Mark Webb  
(includes Stocks-at-Risk & Exotic Species Sub-committees)  
*MEMBERSHIP*..... Deborah Wade  
*NOMINATING*..... Dan Bennett  
*POND MANAGEMENT*..... Greg Binion  
*PUBLICITY / EXHIBITS*..... Stephen Curtis & Stephanie George  
*SCHOLARSHIP* ..... Jennifer Butler  
*STUDENT OUTREACH*..... Josh Perkin

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