

The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Fall 2021 Newsletter
Volume 47, Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DAKUS GEESLIN

Greetings, TCAFS members and fisheries colleagues!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family enjoying the brief but beautiful fall season. By the time this newsletter reaches you, deer season will have opened, the flounder season will have closed for the first time in our regulatory history, and rainbow trout will soon be stocked in our local waterways for anglers to enjoy. I hope to take advantage of the latter. As I write this article from my hotel room at the 151st annual American Fisheries Society meeting across from Camden Yards in Baltimore, MD, I want to share a few observations and lessons learned from the meeting.

Like many of you I often find my AFS conference experience, whether it's our state chapter, division, or parent society meeting, serves as a mighty recharge of the personal and professional battery. Time spent away from the daily grind interacting with colleagues, meeting new ones, and taking in a variety of talks and symposia has served as a powerful source of inspiration over the years as I re-emerge into the work of our home ground and waters. Put simply, I need this experience and the periodic gathering of our tribe and sharing of accomplishments and ideas to do my job to the best of my ability and better serve the people of Texas. Thinking through this a bit more, I noted several aspects of our profession at this meeting that are particularly inspiring. First and foremost, our future is in good hands with the cohort of students soon entering our profession. The skills in applied fisheries biology

and research, written and verbal communication, and the ability to network displayed by students is far more advanced than the time when I came out of graduate school. For example, one of my highlights of the conference was serving as a reviewer of college student resumes/CV and conducting mock interviews. The graduate student assigned to me was well on her way to a successful career in our field. This young lady, currently at the Ohio State University, had secured a National Science Foundation grant that paid for her graduate school in full. She was seeking doctoral programs and shared that she would soon be visiting marine science programs in Texas. I did my best to recruit her to several of our fine marine science institutions along the coast. Spending a few hours reviewing her CV and walking through a mock interview had me wanting to offer her a job on the spot. She was that good! To say I was highly impressed would be an understatement. I see this within our own chapter student members.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

I was able to talk with several of our student members during the poster social and cannot wait to see where our students end up in their careers. Again, the future is bright.

Adaptive, flexible, resilient, determined. I observed our profession displaying each of these powerful adjectives this week. It's no secret that there were several significant challenges with the event organizer and the hybrid in-person/virtual format. Talks and symposia were often canceled without notice, presentations weren't always loaded and ready for the presenter, the list goes on. Things did not go smoothly in Baltimore. However, time and time again I noted our tribe setting the example for adaptive ecology and resilience as we worked together to overcome challenges throughout the week. This too was incredibly inspiring as we made it work and pulled our personal laptops together, ran cords, and remained positive and determined to have a quality experience. Teamwork was alive and well in Baltimore.

As we approach our annual meeting in February, I am confident the planning team led by Tim Birdsong will have prepared for all the things that could go wrong and have a backup plan in place. Based on my experience with the planning team that pulled off the virtual meeting last year I know anything is possible with our team of volunteers. I look forward to seeing you all in February, to sharing some time together, and to recharging our collective batteries. Until then, be well.



PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

BY TIMOTHY BIRDSONG

As members of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS), we are committed to the conservation, development, and wise utilization of recreational and commercial fisheries, the promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice, and the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects. This is the shared and unifying mission that motivates and inspires us to join together as researchers, aquaculturists, resource managers, conservationists, consultants, administrators, educators, and advocates to lead, demonstrate, promote, and otherwise enable the science-based stewardship of fisheries resources in Texas.

Just as Texas is a large coastal state with expansive, biologically productive, and ecologically diverse freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems, Texas boasts a large, diverse, and thriving community of fisheries professionals. It's remarkable when considering the immense and varied disciplinary expertise and the culture of service, mentoring, and collaboration that exists within TCAFS. These are only a handful of the elements that have resulted in TCAFS continually being recognized as a leader in the fisheries profession (most recently as recipient of the 2019 AFS Outstanding Large Chapter Award).

Since formation of TCAFS in 1975, the value proposition for engagement as a TCAFS member has not simply been limited to the opportunities offered for individual growth but more importantly, the plentiful opportunities to actively serve within TCAFS and truly lean into and help advance the mission. Attendance at TCAFS annual meetings is definitely of value to attendees, but if you desire to truly experience the full benefits of TCAFS membership, I encourage you to serve as a TCAFS officer, committee chair, or committee member (more than a dozen to choose from), engage in continuing education courses and field trips (three to choose from at the TCAFS 2022 Annual Meeting), serve as a presentation judge, moderate a technical session, participate in the student-mentor lunch, or volunteer to help organize and coordinate special events, such as our upcoming inaugural TCAFS 5K Spawning Run.

While engagement and service in these roles is critically important to TCAFS operations, it results in a more immersive experience for you that will undoubtedly expedite your professional growth and prepare you to play increasingly significant roles in the future, expand your professional network, and contribute to the growth and development of your colleagues and our entire community. As with any volunteer organization, engagement by our members is critical to the continued relevance and success of TCAFS. As you complete the registration form for the 2022 Annual Meeting (<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-meetings/2022-meeting-home-page/>), please seriously consider the service opportunities listed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the officers or committee chairs (see <https://units.fisheries.org/tx/officers-and-chairs/>). Furthermore, as planning of the 2022 Annual Meeting continues, we need volunteers to support a litany of roles. If you're interested in serving and would like to explore specific opportunities, please email me at Timothy.Birdsong@tpwd.texas.gov.



Tim Birdsong, TCAFS President-Elect, holds a Striped Bass at Lake Texoma.

Thank you for all you do for Texas fish and fisheries. Collectively, we are making a real difference, and I'm incredibly excited to reconnect at Mo-Ranch February 3-5, 2022 to learn, be encouraged, and be inspired. It will be an event to remember and I look forward to seeing you there!

PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE



TCAFS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

2022 ANNUAL MEETING AT MO-RANCH

Overview

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) will be held February 3-5, 2022, at Mo-Ranch Resort and Conference Center on the banks of the North Fork Guadalupe River in the scenic Texas Hill Country.

Live streaming of the meeting will be offered via Microsoft Teams for those who choose the virtual attendance option. Due to technical limitations, the interactive experience for virtual participants will be limited to the Microsoft Teams chat function, which will be used to relay questions to speakers. For an optimal meeting experience, TCAFS encourages in-person attendance. Those who register to participate virtually will receive a Microsoft Teams meeting invitation via email in advance of the meeting.

[SEE TCAFS WEBPAGE FOR DETAILS](#)

Registration

Meeting registration cost for in-person attendees is \$125 for professionals and \$65 for students. Meeting registration cost for virtual attendees is \$34 for professionals and \$25 for students.

[Click here](#) for the online 2022 TCAFS Annual Meeting Registration Form (using Google Docs).

[Click here](#) for the paper 2022 TCAFS Annual Meeting Registration Form.

THE DEADLINE FOR MEETING REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 21, 2021.



North Fork Guadalupe River at Mo-Ranch.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING AT MO-RANCH

Call for Papers

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are requested for the 2022 TCAFS Annual Meeting. To submit an abstract and be considered for the technical program, please [click here](#). Be prepared to 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 2022 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 must include presenting and/or lead author's name and institution. Posters must not exceed 48" in any dimension.

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 17, 2021.

Activity Highlights

- ◇ Continuing Education at Mo-Ranch:
Application of recreational side-scan sonar technology in aquatic conservation
- ◇ Field trip to TPWD Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center:
Careers in applied fisheries research and opportunities for collaboration between universities and state fisheries programs
- ◇ Field trip to TWPD Kerr Wildlife Management Area:
Watershed and ecosystem-scale management strategies
- ◇ Inaugural TCAFS Spawning Run
- ◇ Fish Conservation Film



Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center.



Kerr Wildlife Management Area.

TCAFS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

BY JENNIFER BUTLER

Student Scholarship Award Application

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (TCAFS) is seeking deserving students enrolled in fisheries related curricula in the State of Texas.

Up to ten scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each may be awarded to a minimum of two undergraduate students, one Master's student, and one Ph.D. student; one student will be awarded the prestigious Clark Hubbs Scholarship for research that continues his legacy of native fish conservation. Applicants must be a current student at the time of scholarship award (January 2022). Students are eligible to receive one award in each degree category during their scholastic career. No nomination is necessary, and more than one student from the same university may apply in each category. Scholarships will be awarded during the 2022 Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting to be held February 2-5, 2022. Scholarship winners should plan to attend the meeting to receive their award.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on their academic excellence, professional activities, promise of future professional involvement, and contributions to the field of fisheries science.

Applications must be received by **Sunday, November 14, 2021, 11:59PM CST**. A PDF of the application may be obtained from the TCAFS website. Applications can be submitted in a Word document or a PDF.

Applications should be submitted by email to Jennifer.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov.

Please direct applications and questions to:
Jennifer Butler – Scholarship Committee Chair
(979) 292-0100 ext. 225
Jennifer.Butler@tpwd.texas.gov

Directions:

Type all materials and limit your answers to cover the period of your college career only.

1. General Information

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

College/University:

Degree/Classification (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctorate):

Overall GPA (most recent):

Expected Graduation Date:

2. List all relevant work and volunteer experience since beginning college-level studies.

3. List honors, fellowships, and scholarships (include value) that you have received.

4. List any relevant professional society, scientific society, and honor society activities.

5. Describe ways in which you have exhibited leadership potential. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.

6. Provide a statement describing your career goals. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.

7. Describe your reasons for pursuing a career in fisheries science. Include your personal philosophy of natural resource conservation. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.

8. If you are currently working on a research project or plan to conduct research as part of your degree please provide a brief description of your research. If you are not currently working on a research project, then no description is necessary. Please limit your response to a maximum of 350 words.



OUTSTANDING FISHERIES WORKER CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND JUDGES

BY BRITTANY CHESSER

Once again we are asking that you acknowledge your peers who may be deserving of the Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year (OFW) Award! This award recognizes fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas, which can span more than one year, in the following categories: Fisheries Administration, Fish Culture, Fisheries Education, Fisheries Management, Fisheries Research, Fisheries Technical Support, Fisheries Student, and Special Recognition in Fisheries Work.

Nominations can only be made by TCAFS members, and the nominee must also be a member. However, the exception to this is for the category of Special Recognition in Fisheries Work where only the one who submits the nomination must be a TCAFS member. This Special Recognition award can be for an individual or organization.

The nominees for each category may meet one or more of the requirements found on our website.

Nominations are due on **December 3, 2021**. To submit a nomination, please fill out the nomination form, in its entirety, and email it to me at brittany.chesser@tamu.edu.

<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-awards/>

Secondly, in order to prepare for our upcoming meeting, I am soliciting judges to evaluate presentations and posters. I'll be looking for a minimum of four judges for each presentation and poster.

If you have any interest in judging, please contact me (Brittany.chesser@tamu.edu). If you have served as a judge in previous years, I will be contacting you in the near future in hopes of your continued involvement. Additionally, you will be able to indicate judging interest on the registration form.

Some people judge only one presentation or poster, and that is good – it allows a person to participate and be one of those four to judge a presentation. Judges will be scoring presentations and posters based on introduction, methods, organization, originality, technical merit, delivery and visual aids. See our award webpage (above) for more detailed criteria and our May 2021 (Vol 47(1)) Newsletter for past winners.

Information I need from prospective judges:

- ◇ Name
- ◇ Affiliation
- ◇ Email address
- ◇ Cell phone #
- ◇ Preferences
- ◇ Professional or student presentations
- ◇ Oral and/or posters
- ◇ Days/times of availability
- ◇ Topics of interest (e.g., coastal or inland, hatchery or management, etc.)

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS



APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

TCAFS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BY GREG CUMMINGS

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is seeking nominations for next year's President-Elect position. If elected, this person would serve as President-Elect in 2022 and become TCAFS President in 2023. If you have someone you would like to nominate, please provide their name, affiliation, and contact information to Greg Cummings at greg.cummings@tpwd.texas.gov. Please have your nominations sent by **November 30, 2021**. Voting will begin in January 2022 and a winner will be announced at the TCAFS Chapter Business Meeting in February. Thank you!

TCAFS ISSUES COMMITTEE SOLICITS MEMBERS BY KEVIN MAYES

The Issues Committee of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society identifies issues relating to aquatic resources, professional ethics, and the environment that are of importance to the mission of the Chapter or Society. The charge to the Committee is to solicit issues for consideration from the membership, another committee, or the Chapter; to recommend resolutions; and to respond to requests for information on issues from the Society or other entities as directed by the Chapter President. Issue selection criteria, steps, and possible actions are outlined in TCAFS Procedural Handbook. If you interested in serving on the Committee please contact Kevin Mayes, Issues Committee Chair, at kevin.mayes@tpwd.texas.gov.

2022 SOUTHERN DIVISION AFS ANNUAL MEETING



2022 SDAFS ANNUAL MEETING

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstract submission is now open for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, January 19-23, 2022. The meeting will be hosted in Charleston, SC and is currently scheduled to be in-person. However, the health and safety of our members and guests is our highest priority and we will make adjustments to this event if needed regarding presentation format.

We are soliciting papers and posters that exemplify the latest research in fisheries science from students through retired professionals, covering a variety of topics applicable to freshwater and marine environments with the aim of advancing fisheries ecology, conservation, and management. We encourage submissions covering a wide range of topics from those of broad interest to those that focus on particular topics, including topics of regional significance. We encourage you to browse the preliminary list of accepted symposia.

The submission deadline is **Friday, December 17 at 11:59 PM EST.**

[Submit Abstract](#)

REGISTRATION

Please complete the registration by visiting the 2022 [SDAFS Meeting Registration webpage](#).

Early registration (ends December 3)

AFS Member

Professional registration: \$225

Student registration: \$100

Retired registration: \$100

Non-member

Professional registration: \$325

Student registration: \$125

Retired registration: \$125

Regular registration (ends January 19)

AFS Member

Professional registration: \$300

Student registration: \$125

Retired registration: \$125

Non-member

Professional registration: \$400

Student registration: \$150

Retired registration: \$150



MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

AFS MEMBERS FROM MULTIPLE DIVISIONS JOIN TOGETHER TO BUILD A NEW MODEL FOR COLLABORATION

BY KEVIN MAYES

What

Over 60 American Fisheries Society members from the North Central, Southern, Northeastern, and Western Divisions have expressed interest in joining a new collaboration to address problems related to prairie stream fish research and conservation. This collaboration will advance through a symposium at the 2021 national AFS meeting in Baltimore entitled “*Creating and Implementing an Ecosystem-wide Integrated Research Agenda and Conservation Plan for Prairie Streams: A Shared Vision, Next Generation Synthesis, and Future Action Plan.*”

Why

Prairie ecosystems once covered 2.8 million square kilometers of North America. Numerous Great Plains fish species have been declining for decades. Prairie stream ecosystems face unprecedented threats from surface and groundwater depletion caused by human development, stream fragmentation, invasive species, native species loss, energy development, and climate change. These stressors compromise the integrity and function of stream ecosystems and result in continued loss of native biota.

A New Vision

Increasing threats to aquatic resources demand new collaborative approaches. For large ecosystems, such as prairie streams, one state, one agency, or one research lab cannot be effective alone. Collaborative synthesis in ideas, data, and action is needed for restoration and preservation of prairie fish assemblages. However, this collaboration requires creative and innovative ideas, a common vision, good coordination among participants, and a clear plan for future action.

The Symposium

This symposium will serve as a forum for retrospective and historic analyses, current studies, projections to help provide directions for a future regionwide ecosystem-based synthetic conservation plan, and guidance for future research on prairie fishes and ecosystems.

Nine organizers are joined by 23 other coauthors to present 15 talks and a panel discussion. Topics address: (1) conservation vision and objectives, (2) existing tools and information resources, (3) information gaps, and (4) resource management challenges. The diverse fisheries experts involved in the symposium represent three federal agencies, one non-governmental organization, six state agencies, five cooperative fish and wildlife research units, and six universities.

Organizers of the symposium include: David Hu (US Geological Survey), Patrick M. Kocovsky, (US Geological Survey), Sarah Gaughan (Bellevue University), Martha Mather (Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit), Kevin Mayes (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Joshua Perkin (Texas A&M University), Dana Winkelman (Colorado Cooperative Fish and



Sharpnose Shiner *Notropis oxyrhynchus*, endemic to Texas, is a prairie stream cyprinid belonging to the pelagic broadcast-spawning reproductive guild. This specimen was collected from the Brazos River in Seymour, Baylor Co., TX. Photo credit: Kevin Conway

AFS MEMBERS FROM MULTIPLE DIVISIONS JOIN TOGETHER TO BUILD A NEW MODEL FOR COLLABORATION (CONTINUED)

Wildlife Research Unit), Melissa Wuellner (University of Nebraska at Kearney) and Jane Rogosch (Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit).

Other speakers include: Thomas Archdeacon (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Caitlyn Aymami (Kansas State University), Carli Baum (Colorado Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit), Evan Booher (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), Natalie Coash (University of Wisconsin Stevens Point), Stephen Davenport (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Jessica Davis (Tennessee Valley Authority), Daniel Fenner (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Joanna Hatt (New Mexico Department of Game & Fish), Brian Hickerson (Arizona Game and Fish Department), Mark Kirk (Murray State University), Keith Koupal (Nebraska Game and Parks Commission), Steven Krentz (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Erin Nguyen (Texas A&M University), Kevin Pope (Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit), Olivia Rode (Kansas State University), Anthony Rodger (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation), Ryan Smith (The Nature Conservancy), Trevor Starks (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation), Steve Thomas (University of Nebraska), Joe Trungale (Texas Conservation Science), Samuel Wallick (University of Nebraska at Kearney), and Annika Walters (Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit).

Ultimate Outcome

The ultimate outcome of the collaboration is to foster broader landscape and riverscape efforts to preserve and protect these important native fish resources of the North American Great Plains before additional extirpations and extinctions result in irreversible ecosystem impacts.

In addition, we hope to develop a new model for across-employer, across-location, and across-disciplinary synthesis that can be transferred to other systems and locations. This model will promote high quality science, facilitate excellent monitoring data collection, aid decision-making, and guide future research and management activities.



Double Mountain Fork Brazos River. Hwy 70 N. of Rotan, Fisher Co., Texas. Credit: Kevin Mayes

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

A YEAR OF SWIMMING FISH BY CAMERON EMADI

I am a Ph.D. student in Environmental Science at the University of North Texas in Dr. Edward Mager's lab. We began working on a project in early 2020 with biologists at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Inland Fisheries Division at the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in Mountain Home, Texas. The center is nestled in the Hill Country not too far from Fredericksburg. The project was created to assess fish swimming performance (e.g., maximum endurance and burst swimming speeds) to facilitate better stream crossing designs that consider the fish's swimming capacities. Structures like bridges or culverts can funnel water creating zones of high-water velocity which might hinder migrations, cause extirpations, or otherwise harm local fish populations. In this study, we looked at four fish species, all of which are designated as Species of Greatest Conservation Need by TPWD: the Guadalupe Bass (*Micropterus treculii*), Guadalupe Roundnose Minnow (*Dionda nigrotaeniata*), Guadalupe Darter (*Percina apristis*), and Plateau Shiner (*Cyprinella lepida*). We are nearing completion of the project, but I spent considerable time down in the Hill Country last fall working on the adult Guadalupe Bass portion of the project. Being born and raised in North Texas it was a great experience to spend time in the scenery and beautiful environment we have hidden down in the Hill Country. The experience of working with the scientists and staff at the Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center and the time I spent in the Hill Country will definitely be a highlight of my Ph.D. experience. I look forward to going back down to attend and present my research at this year's annual TCAFS meeting!



Cameron Emadi with Guadalupe bass. Photo credit: Cameron Emadi

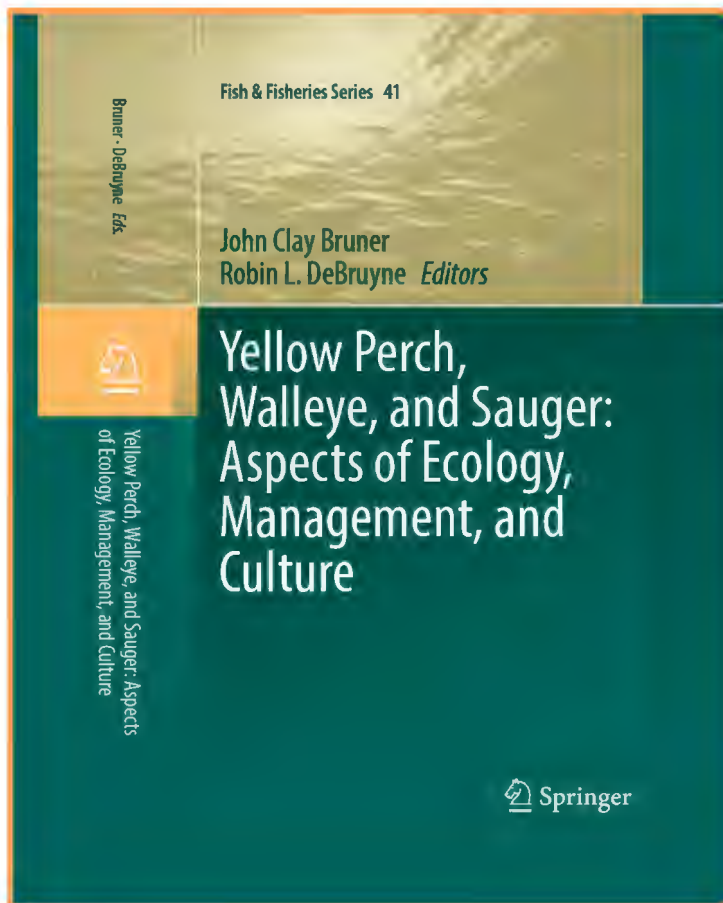
NEW BOOK OUT ON BIOLOGY OF PERCIDS BY JOHN BRUNER

Bruner, John Clay, DeBruyne, Robin L. (Eds.) 2021. *Yellow Perch, Walleye, and Sauger: Aspects of Ecology, Management, and Culture*. Springer Fish & Fisheries Series Cham, Switzerland Vol. 41: 1-402 pp.

Walleye, one of the most sought-after species of freshwater sport fishes in North America, have demonstrated appreciable declines in their numbers from their original populations since the beginning of the 20th century. Similarly, Yellow Perch, once the most commonly caught sport fish and an important commercial species in North America, have also shown declines. Compiling up-to-date information on the biology and management of Walleye, Sauger, and Yellow Perch, including research on systematics, genetics, physiology, ecology, movement, population dynamics, culture, recent case histories, and management practices, will be of interest to managers, researchers, and students who deal with these important species, particularly in light of habitat alterations, population shifts, and other biotic and abiotic factors related to a changing climate.

Order online at [springer.com/booksellers](https://www.springer.com/booksellers)

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MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

PRESERVE OUR HISTORY TODAY BY MICHELE NATIONS,, TCAFS ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN COMMITTEE CHAIR

It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future.

-William J. Murtagh, "Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America"

What is "history"? It's a term that relates to past events as well as the discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about these past events.

The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future.


-Stephen E. Ambrose

How do we know about our TCAFS history? Thanks to Ray Mathews, we know quite a bit. He was the archivist/historian from 1999 to 2009, and he was amazing in his compilation of documents and files, plus preparing the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society History & Chronology, Silver Anniversary Edition Celebrating 25 Years of Fisheries History (September 2001), which can be found on the History page of the TCAFS web page (<https://units.fisheries.org/tx/tc-history/>), and a poster that shows the TCAFS history from 1975 to 2005, which will be posted to the website in the near future.

The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see.

-Winston Churchill

As the new Archivist/Historian in 2009, I began working on an update to his work. Then in 2015, I was asked to chair the Awards Committee. Those who know me will understand that I jumped at the chance to help the Chapter in this capacity – not only would I be able to highlight people doing great things, but I would also be able to use my database skills to track judges and presentations, figuring that I could also use the information in my efforts to keep track of our




Lone Star History of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday!

Michelle Nations, Texas Chapter Archivist/Historian, midval Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries, michelle.tcafs@gmail.com
Ray Mathews, Volunteer, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, former Fisheries Biologist/Ecologist, State of Texas, ocastarayausth@gmail.com

Brief Overview




The Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society started on November 3, 1975, at Baylor University in the nation of Texas. It is composed of College Students, Faculty, and staff who share a common interest in the study of fish and fisheries. The official chapter charter was approved by the general assembly in September 1976.

The objectives of the American Fisheries Society are defined as follows: 1. To promote the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice; and 2. To promote the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice. The members of the Texas Chapter adhere to the article 1.3 with "to increase information exchange among members of the Society regarding its work and to having a professional working in the State of Texas."

Membership has ranged from 83 chapter members to over 200 members. The Texas Chapter has had several presidents, past presidents, officers, members, and staff. Past presidents include: Donalton C. Wilkins, Robert W. Burdette, Bruce D. Johnson, and others. Past presidents include: Donalton C. Wilkins, Robert W. Burdette, Bruce D. Johnson, and others.

Each year the Chapter holds an annual meeting, which typically includes a luncheon, a business meeting, a keynote address, a poster session, a field trip, and a social event. The annual meeting is held in a different location each year. The annual meeting is held in a different location each year.



The Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is a member of the American Fisheries Society. The Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is a member of the American Fisheries Society.

Chapter Mission and Committee Goals

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is committed to the conservation, development, and use of all forms of freshwater and marine fisheries resources, and the education and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects.

The mission of the Chapter is defined as follows: 1. To promote the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice; and 2. To promote the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice. The members of the Texas Chapter adhere to the article 1.3 with "to increase information exchange among members of the Society regarding its work and to having a professional working in the State of Texas."

The Chapter currently consists of the following committees: 1. Awards Committee; 2. Executive Committee; 3. Finance Committee; 4. Fisheries Resources Committee; 5. Membership Committee; 6. Nominations Committee; 7. Publications Committee; 8. Student Activities Committee; 9. Technical Committee; 10. Training Committee; 11. Volunteer Committee; 12. Youth Committee; 13. Women's Committee; 14. Young Professional Committee; 15. Zoning Committee.

Fishery Resources of Texas

Texas occupies a broad transition zone between several physiographic provinces in North America and has a wide variety of aquatic life resources. The state's diverse topography, climate, and geology have created a wide variety of aquatic life resources. The state's diverse topography, climate, and geology have created a wide variety of aquatic life resources.

The freshwater fish fauna of Texas is considered as an inventory of the state's aquatic resources. The state's diverse topography, climate, and geology have created a wide variety of aquatic life resources. The state's diverse topography, climate, and geology have created a wide variety of aquatic life resources.

The Texas Chapter has a long history of involvement in the study of fish and fisheries. The state's diverse topography, climate, and geology have created a wide variety of aquatic life resources. The state's diverse topography, climate, and geology have created a wide variety of aquatic life resources.

1975

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was founded at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The first meeting was held on November 3, 1975.

1976

The first annual meeting was held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The meeting was held on November 3, 1976.

1977

The first newsletter was published. The newsletter was published in 1977.

1978

The first annual meeting was held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The meeting was held on November 3, 1978.

1979

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1980

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1981

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1982

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1983

The first annual meeting was held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The meeting was held on November 3, 1983.

1984

The first annual meeting was held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The meeting was held on November 3, 1984.

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2021

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2022

The first annual meeting was held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. The meeting was held on November 3, 2022.

PRESERVE OUR HISTORY TODAY (CONTINUED)

history. That kept me busy until 2020 when I stepped down from being the Awards committee chair and Brittany Chesser took over that position.

Study the past if you would define the future.
-Confucius

Now being retired, I'm enjoying history more fully again. All those paper documents that Ray began with (e.g., proceedings, newsletters, and letters) are being scanned in as digital files, if they have not already been done so. I'm also getting back to the database I started to track members and, with it, also capturing members' photos. I was able to complete two posters with the help of Ray and Stephen Curtis for the TCAFS exhibit at the AFS meeting in Baltimore. Here are the posters that will also be available at the TCAFS meeting in Hunt.

We now have so many ways to capture history.

Would you please help me? Send me your photos of your student subunit meetings, research photos, and anything else that I can use to capture for the TCAFS files. I'm also preparing for the 50-year anniversary in 2025.

Today is Tomorrow's Yesterday!

Help me preserve your memories! Do you have stories that will make our history come alive? Something funny that happened at a meeting? Help me preserve our present so that others will be able to see their past. Our lives are a legacy – a gift that only each of us can give. You can even tell me your personal story of how you became interested in fisheries. I love reading the applications for the scholarships when students are asked what brought them into this field.

I'd really enjoy hearing from you!

Michele Nations
MichNat.TCAFS@gmail.com

Presidents 1967-2022 and President-Elect 2023

With a Focus on the Future

The TCAFS Chapter has a unique culture that, together with the growth and development of our student members, is a testament to the organization's success. We are proud to have the support of our members, who are the backbone of our organization. We are committed to providing a high-quality experience for all our members, and we are dedicated to ensuring that our organization remains a vibrant and active part of our community.

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MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

2021 EXCOMM MEETING MINUTES

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

EXCOM Team Meeting June 9, 2021

Call to Order: 3:05 pm by Dakus Geeslin

Members Present: Alice Best, Brittany Chesser, Dakus Geeslin, Jennifer Butler, Kevin Mayes, Lynn Wright, Margaret Stadig, Michelle Nations, Nikki Ragan, Sarah Haas, Sarah Robertson, Steven Bardin, Timothy Birdsong, Kirk Winemiller

Determination of a quorum: Yes, by Sarah Robertson

Agenda items:

- Transfer of banking authorization
- Hutton Scholar Program update
- Plans for 2022 in-person meeting at Mo Ranch
- Plaques and certificate timing

President's Report (Dakus Geeslin): Re: Banking Authorization: Dakus has signed off and returned forms to Edward Jones. Still awaiting Sarah Robertson and Brian VanZee's signatures.

Re: Hutton Scholar Program Updates: TPWD Coastal Fisheries has an AFS Hutton Scholar lined up for the summer at the Dickinson field office and Inland Fisheries has one lined up at AE Wood, both through TPWD's partnership with AFS.

President-Elect (Tim Birdsong): Re: 2022 meeting: Explored Drury Suites-Riverwalk in San Antonio, but room requirements and commitments were rigid and not practical given uncertainty of attendance.

Mo Ranch is flexible and has 170-200 (Tim will check on exact number) hotel style beds in addition to bunkhouses and houses that can hold hundreds more, recreational opportunities, dining, and conference facilities on site. The case was made in the newsletter that we need to get back to in person meetings and Mo Ranch offers a retreat style environment to do so. Mo Ranch provides state rate or cheaper lodging and reasonable food prices (cafeteria style breakfast, lunch, and dinner), they are accommodating with BYOB alcohol, have a bartender on site, and a few potential locations for socials. Hotel style rooms include towels, toiletries, cleaning service, etc. like a typical hotel. Encouraging a laid back, comfortable dress code as some walking is required across the campus. Dining hall can accommodate specific dietary requests (vegetarian, gluten-free, etc.) with prior notice to Mo Ranch.

Meeting is scheduled for February 3-5, 2022 to schedule around Southern Division and other Mo Ranch bookings. An expanded schedule was considered with events on Wednesday and CE at 8am on Thursday; however, due to concerns about student availability and travel times, all activities will occur Thursday-Saturday (3rd-5th) with a potential welcome social on Wednesday for early arrivers. Tim will send out a revised itinerary to the group.

Attendees will call Mo Ranch to reserve a bed and what meals they want on site. Then they will fill out a TCAFS Google Doc to facilitate room assignments (handled by TCAFS) including preferred person to share a room with. Mo Ranch will provide each attendee with an itemized receipt for lodging and meals. We will need a volunteer to handle room assignments.

Exploring adding additional events such as a Spawning Run (Nate Smith) and a service project. The North Fork Guadalupe River offers opportunities for service projects and nearby Kerr WMA is offering watershed/riparian workshop. Potential for a trailering training for students or fish habitat enhancement at the Mo Ranch impoundment. Mike Homer is exploring potential habitat improvement projects in the area. TPWD could provide kayaks and fishing gear.

Everyone was supportive of a meeting at Mo Ranch and no informal objections were raised. The idea of a virtual attendance option was discussed. It would be possible, but more work and wifi capabilities are uncertain. A call for objections to an all in-person meeting (no virtual option) was made by Dakus, no objections were made.

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Subcommittee will coordinate promotion and social media outreach to advertise the meeting (Michele Nations, Tim Birdsong, Sarah Haas, Sarah Robertson). Michele will share photos of the site with the leadership committee.

Tim will update itinerary and identify roles needed.

Past President (Kirk Winemiller): Parent chapter is moving forward with an in-person meeting in Baltimore, Nov 6-10, 2021.

Secretary-Treasurer (Sarah Robertson): Plans to sign off on taxes this week. Still waiting for the paperwork to finish the bank account transfer from Natalie.

Awards (Brittany Chesser): 2020 and 2021 plaques/certificates have not been ordered yet.

Q1- Can we award best presentation/poster the same year presentations are made as opposed to the following year? Because talks go until Saturday afternoon and the banquet is Friday, we need to continue brainstorming scheduling and feasibility, tabled. Tim, Kirk, Dakus, and Brittany will have a follow up discussion on this topic.

Q2- Currently all coauthors get a certificate, should we go back to just the presenter receiving a certificate? Certificates are \$5 per person plus shipping. Agreed that all coauthors will receive certificates, presenter will receive a plaque, and it will be the responsibility of the presenter to distribute certificates to coauthors, not the chapters.

2020 award winners will be recognized in the newsletter holding their awards, 2021 award winners will be recognized in person at the 2022 meeting, and 2022 award winners will be recognized in 2023 unless the group determines a better option.

History (Michele Nations): No update.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright): Lynn has some good leads on CE. He will get commitments and time needs so we can determine the schedule. A minimum of two CE courses (either concurrent or subsequent), but we can accommodate up to four if there is interest and the schedule allows.

Editorial (Alice Best/ Dave Buzan): No update.

Endowment (Brian VanZee): Not in attendance.

Internet (Sarah Haas): Sarah updated contact info on the website. Newsletters are up to date. Sarah would like to meet with Mo Ranch a couple of months in advance of the meeting to work out AV logistics. She is going to start work on the electronic membership form soon and will be on leave Aug-Oct.

Issues (Kevin Mayes): No issues presented to the committee. Two new members recruited to the committee, Margaret Stadig and Tim Birdsong.

Membership (Michele Nations): Michele will get started on meeting "Save the Date" and follow up with Tim, Sarah, and Sarah on meeting promotion and social media efforts.

Newsletter (Matt Troia): Not in attendance.

Nominating (Greg Cummings): Not in attendance.

Pond Management (Greg Binion): Not in attendance.

Publicity/Exhibits (Steven Bardin): Steven needs a goal number for what we want to raise for the 2022 meeting so he can assemble the tiered sponsorship levels. Some auction items on hand donated from 2020. Steven will update the online store with new merchandise.

2021 EXCOMM MEETING MINUTES



2021 EXCOMM MEETING MINUTES

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler): Solicitations for scholarship applications will be reviewed by the committee and will go out to universities in the beginning of the fall semester.

Student Outreach (Josh Perkin): Not in attendance.

Student Subunit Updates

TX A&M University: No update.

Tarleton State University: No update.

Texas Tech University: No update.

Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi: No update.

Old business: Add agenda item to address the recommendation to bump the Clark Hubbs from \$500 to 1500, tabled at the 2021 business meeting. Table until we have updated budget information.

New Business: Next ExCom meeting in early September.

Adjourn: 4:53 pm

EXCOM Team Meeting September 13, 2021

Call to Order: DG called meeting to order at 3:01 pm

Members Present: Steven Bardin, Alice Best, Greg Binion, Jennifer Butler, Timothy Birdsong, David Buzan, Brittany Chesser, Greg Cummings, Dakus Geeslin, Sarah Haas, Kevin Mayes, Michele Nations, Josh Perkin, Nikki Ragan, Sarah Robertson, Margaret Stadig, Matt Troia, Brian VanZee, Kirk Winemiller, Lynn Wright, Haley Kokel, John Taylor, Stephen Curtis

Determination of a quorum: Yes, 3 out of 4 elected officers present. TEAMS Meeting recorded. KM has Sec-Treas. Proxy.

President's Report (Dakus Geeslin): Drew Winters (AFS policy director) requested letters of support for RAWA; the chapter sent a letter in response.

President-Elect (Tim Birdsong): TB covered meeting materials and topics. HK helped with Save The Date and other materials (social media and membership committee with Michele). Reviewed campus logistics/availability at MO Ranch. Reviewed schedule at-a-glance.

Past President (Kirk Winemiller): Reviewed bylaw on quorum. AFS annual meeting – virtual and in person being offered.

Secretary-Treasurer (Sarah Robertson): KM proxy. Treasurer report values provided by SR

Balances

TCAFS \$21,406

Endowment \$495,752 (yet see endowment report – value slightly different as of

9/13)

Income

2021 Meeting Registration total \$8,195

Meeting Sponsorship total \$4,057

Meeting expenses not available.

Awards (Brittany Chesser): Will send out notices soon. Will need assistance with reviewing nominations

History (Michele Nations): Working on poster to be presented at TCAFS meeting.

Continuing Education (Lynn Wright): Clint Robertson and Emma Clarkson side scan sonar workshop for meeting.

Editorial (Alice Best/ Dave Buzan): AB call for abstracts out this or next week, 2022 meeting website up. TB working on web meeting sections. Plan to launch registration at time of call for abstracts. DB 2021 Proceedings by October.

2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

Endowment (Brian VanZee): Met with Financial Advisor (Edward Jones) reviewed investments, goals, and performance. Fund up to \$4500 (n=3) in scholarships directly out of endowment. Sportman's Club sponsoring 4 scholarships.

Discussion of using endowment to fund operations, if needed as last resort. What would the process be and would it be a qualifying withdrawal? DB: According to bylaws using endowment funds not an option for operating.

Internet (Sarah Haas/John Taylor): JT: SH plans to continue heading up internet committee. JT will fill in.

Issues (Kevin Mayes): No issues to report.

Membership (Michele Nations): Nothing to report

Newsletter (Matt Troia): MT not much to report, fall newsletter will get rolling.

Nominating (Greg Cummings): GC will be looking for next year's president-elect nominations. KM add nomination request to newsletter.

Pond Management (Greg Binion): GB: Vegetation section of manual updated. Will coordinate subcomm meeting in person to tackle the pond management manual.

Publicity/Exhibits (Steve Bardin): SB: Updating sponsorship letter re: student housing. Proposes edits to categories of sponsorship. Needs mailing address of Sec-Treasurer. SC provided.

Scholarships (Jennifer Butler): BVZ offered motion to increase award to \$1500. Motion seconded by DG. No discussion. All approved. KM will amend draft announcement.

Student Outreach (Josh Perkin): JP committee includes Scott Collins, Margaret Stadig, and Levi Sparks. Meeting in July to brainstorm ideas on new ideas, student-mentor lunch. Discussed timing at 2022 meeting.

Student Subunit Updates: No student representatives in attendance.

Old business:

Tabled at last meeting: Recommendation to bump the Clark Hubbs from \$500 to 1500. Addressed by endowment chair – see motion.

New Business: none

Adjourn: 5:15 pm

2021 EXCOMM MEETING MINUTES

**TCAFS
BEHIND THE
SCENES:**

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE
CHAIRS AND
MEMBERS**

BEHIND THE SCENES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT Dakus Geeslin
PRESIDENT-ELECT Tim Birdsong
PAST PRESIDENT Kirk Winemiller
SECRETARY-TREASURER Sarah Robertson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS

AWARDS Brittany Chesser
CONTINUING EDUCATION Lynn Wright
EDITORIAL Alice Best & Dave Buzan
ENDOWMENTS Brian VanZee
HISTORY Michele Nations
INTERNET Sarah Haas & John Taylor
ISSUES Kevin Mayes
MEMBERSHIP Michele Nations, Haley
Kokel, & Stephen Curtis
NOMINATING Greg Cummings
POND MANAGEMENT Greg Binion, Sean Deery,
& Steve Bardin
PUBLICITY/EXHIBITS Shawn Donovan & Steve
Bardin
SCHOLARSHIP Jennifer Butler
STUDENT OUTREACH Josh Perkin, Scott Collins,
Levi Sparks, & Margaret Stadig

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Matt Troia
matthew.troia@utsa.edu

TEXAS CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY PURPOSE AND GOALS

The general purposes and responsibilities of the Texas Chapter are as follows:

1. Support AFS Parent Society objectives. Specifically:
 - A. Promote the conservation, development, and wise use of the fisheries;
 - B. Promote and evaluate the development and advancement of all branches of fisheries science and practice;
 - C. Gather and disseminate to Society members and the general public scientific, technical, and other information about fisheries science and practice through publications, meetings, and other forms of communication; and
 - D. Encourage the teaching of fisheries science and practice in colleges and universities and the continuing education and development of fisheries professionals.
2. As the smallest geographically defined unit recognized as being operationally independent in the Society's Constitution, a Chapter shares the purposes of the Society but is intended to advance the Society's objectives over a more localized area than the Divisions, in this case, within the state of Texas.
3. The Texas Chapter generally provides for interaction among professionals within Texas. The Texas Chapter is a unit of the Southern Division.
4. Facilitate communication among members (by newsletters and other means) regarding fisheries science issues and the conduct of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
5. Hold meetings, publish works, and perform other activities on a technical and semi-technical level that advance the status and performance of the fisheries profession within the Chapter's region.
6. Determine the views of members relative to professional topics affecting their performance, for example, by conducting surveys and considering resolutions.
7. Present the views of Chapter members to the Division membership, the AFS membership, and to the general public and government agencies within the Chapter's boundaries.
8. Hold annual meetings at which all Bylaw responsibilities are carried out.
9. Serve as technical and professional advisors to government agencies within the Chapter's region.
10. Promote the fisheries profession within the Chapter's boundaries through active and positive relations with journalists, government officials, special interest groups, other professional organizations, and the general public.
11. Promote proper use of aquatic resources by initiating and participating in special projects that increase public awareness, expand participation, improve habitat, and protect fragile resources.

A message from the newsletter team:

If you have ideas for stories or photographs from the field you would like to share please email Matt Troia (troiamj@gmail.com). We can help develop and write stories, so please reach out, even if the idea is not completed yet.

TCAFS

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is committed to the conservation, development, and wise utilization of recreational and commercial fisheries, the promotion of all branches of fisheries science and practice, and the exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries, and related subjects.

TCAFS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor—Matt Troia
troiamj@gmail.com