



The Newsletter of
the Texas Chapter of
the American
Fisheries Society



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August 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Kathy Ramos

Greetings from the sauna of East Texas. The Texas Chapter is moving forward toward the next century with plans and strategies that will keep our members on the cutting edge of our profession. It is difficult sometimes to keep up with our changing world. There are so many "cool" tools and gadgets that can make our lives so easy. If I could only find or make time to learn how to use them correctly I would only have to work half a day. Right! Convenience is a double edged sword. In theory these advances should allow us to store, tabulate and analyze our data more quickly so that we have the time to do the fun parts of our jobs, the stuff that we enjoyed doing in the beginning of our careers. The stuff that you couldn't believe you were getting paid to do. It seems that the more we depend on technology, the more we are enslaved by it. As those who have seen me banging away on my keyboard can attest, there is a point when just enough knowledge can be dangerous. My only saving grace is that I am able to admit that operator error is the cause of most of the problems. In the most recent issue of *Fisheries*, President Coutant writes about fighting the "stupidity complex" and voices many of the same concerns. I agree that everyone should take advantage of any opportunity to learn and pass that knowledge on to the next person. The Chapter will provide four different opportunities for continuing education at our next annual meeting. I challenge you all to take advantage of these opportunities. If these aren't the workshops that you need, feel free to contact the ExCom with ideas for the future. I know that we have some of the best fisheries scientists in the country within our Chapter so I am asking for you to also consider offering to teach a workshop in your area of expertise. The only way "knowledge=power" is if you share it with someone to make their jobs easier and better.

The Fish Culture Section will be hosting a special symposium entitled, "A Century of Fish Culture" at the annual meeting in Monterey, California. Nineteen speakers will discuss the changes in culture techniques for different species from 1896 to the present. Texas Chapter members Joe Warren and Todd Engeling will be covering striped bass and black basses respectively. Pat Hutson who is President-Elect of the section was one of the organizers of the symposium. There will be a repeat performance at the upcoming Aquaculture '98 meeting scheduled for February 15-19, 1998 in Las Vegas, Nevada. I encourage everyone who is interested in getting a global view of aquaculture techniques and philosophies to attend this meeting. The only way for us to stay at the cutting edge is to bite the bullet and interact with others in our field and share ideas and innovations.



JULY EXCOM MINUTES

by Dave Terre

Minutes of the Texas Chapter AFS EXCOM meeting - 7/2/97

Call to Order and Minutes Approval - President Kathy Ramos called the meeting to order and the minutes were approved from the January EXCOM meeting. Kathy Ramos, John Prentice, Dave Terre, Bruce Hysmith, John Moczygemba, Steve Poarch and Gary Valentine attended the meeting.

Treasurers report - Dave Terre reported that the total assets of the Texas chapter were \$32,552.43 as of 5-30-97. The balance in our checking account (as of 7-1-97) was \$6,683.53. Major expenditures during the months of April, May, and June included our newsletters (\$396.00) and web site software (\$210.00). Sources of income during those same months included: Profits from Southern Division Meeting in San Antonio (\$1,752.05); new/renewed memberships (\$278.00); and interest and dividends (\$40.05).

1998 Annual Meeting Up-date - We are certain to have a great meeting this year as John Prentice and his committee members have worked very hard thus far. John detailed the planned events which include; advertisement of the web, professional/student presentations and awards, kid-fishing tournament, golf tournament, possible fishing tournament, Shreveport LA trip, huge continuing education workshop, panel discussion, auction/raffle and much more. Everything is basically on schedule but John could use some member input on the subject of this years panel discussion.

Newsletter - The EXCOM decided that we may need to review the "complimentary mail-out" list to insure that the complimentary issues of our newsletter are being sent to the appropriate people/organizations. Newsletter mail-outs via E-mail have resulted in significant savings to the chapter..

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publicity/exhibits - Steve Poarch reported that three exhibitors have been locked-in for our annual meeting so far. Over 200 letters (40 to new potential exhibitors) were to be mailed out next week. Steve reported that our supply of T-shirts and hats is practically down to nothing. Steve will contact the City of Athens for potential sponsorship for T-shirts for our annual meeting.

Nominating - John Moczygemba reported that no nominations have been received for President-Elect. He announced that members should start submitting their nominations now.

Membership - Kathy Ramos reporting for Debbie Wade indicated the chapter now has 225 members.

Continuing Education - Bruce Hysmith gave an overview of our continuing education workshop to be held at our Athens meeting. Subjects will include; Introduction to Genetics, Fish Management Computer Software Packages, Computer Use Basics, and Aquatic Plant Identification. Potential speakers/presenters were discussed. Cost estimates will be presented at the next EXCOM.

Issues - No Report

Endowments - No Report

Student Outreach - No Report

Exotic Species - No Report

Fisheries Worker Directory - No Report

Stocks at Risk - No Report

Pond Management- No Report

Awards- No Report

Editorial - No Report

TCAFS Web Page - No Report



OLD BUSINESS

SDAFS Funds - The EXCOM discussed potential uses of income obtained from the midyear meeting. Options discussed included investments for purposes of continuing education and additional scholarships. It was agreed to bring in our financial consultant, Pam Whitney of Merrill Lynch, to discuss investment opportunities. It was also agreed to consult with our scholarship sponsors before any changes were made to our scholarship program.

Pond Management Publication - Gary Valentine provided the EXCOM with a draft of the Fisheries Management Consultants List which is expected to be a companion publication to the Chapter's Pond Management Guide. He has sent letters out to current Texas Fisheries Management Consultants and received feedback from 15 persons who were interested in having their names listed in this publication. It is expected that all consultants listed be members of the TCAFS. The EXCOM gave Gary Valentine the authority to move forward with this project.

Teaming with Wildlife Initiative - Kathy Ramos reported that we received responses from Congressmen Ralph Hall, Henry B. Gonzalez, and Pete Sessions on our position statement for "Teaming with Wildlife".

NEW BUSINESS

TCAFS Web Page - Our home site really belongs to Fred Janssen since we are using his server at his place of residence. Kathy Ramos indicated that new software was recently purchased for the TCAFS web site that will make our page more attractive. It appears that a lot of our "hits" are originating from the TPWD home page. The EXCOM indicated that we need cost estimates before we go commercial with our web page.

PUBLISH YOUR WORK IN THE TEXAS CHAPTER ANNUAL PROCEEDINGS

The Editorial Committee has already received two manuscripts for inclusion in the January 1998 annual meeting. Papers published in the proceedings are peer reviewed publications - not gray literature. The deadline for submission of Abstracts/Papers for the January 1998 Annual Meeting is 24 October 1997. This will be the last published call for papers before the deadline. There will be a 24-presentation limit for the meeting. All submissions should follow AFS format guidelines and presentations are limited to 20 minutes.

TRIVIA QUIZ

What is it that can challenge your mind, stimulate your sense of fun, and give you the opportunity to show off in front of your peers? How about a Fishery Trivia Bowl. This year at the Annual meeting we will be having a trivia bowl competition in order to encourage interaction between students and professionals. Debbie Wade is organizing this event and needs your help. She is searching for challenging questions, and the correct answers, for the event. Please take the time to send a question or two to Debbie at 11045 Spur 164, Tyler, TX 75709 or tylerhat@ballistic.com.





COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

A number of our committees consist of only one individual. We need your participation to keep the chapter effective and in touch. Please contact the committee chairs and volunteer.

Publicity/Exhibits - Steve Poarch (903)593-5077
Nominating - John Moczygemba (903)786-2389
Membership - Debbie Wade (903)592-7570
Continuing Education - Bruce Hysmith (903)786-2389
Issues - Mike Reed (512)547-9712
Endowments - Allen Forshage (903)676-2277
Student Outreach - Fran Gelwick (409)862-4172
Exotic Species - Stewart Jacks (512)991-1443
Fisheries Workers Directory - Lance Robinson (713)474-2811
Stocks at Risk - Gary Garrett (210)866-3356
Pond Management - Malcolm Johnson (512)396-1231
Awards - Gene Wilde (806)742-3518
Editorial - Joe Fries (512)353-0011

ASSOCIATE EDITORS WANTED

I still need volunteers for the newsletter. This does not involve a major commitment of time or effort. The increased coverage will provide the chapter with much more information and will make the newsletter much more useful. Please volunteer for an area of interest.

Aquaculture - vacant
Marine Fisheries - vacant
Freshwater Fisheries - vacant
University - vacant
Federal Government - vacant
State Government - vacant
Business - vacant



Student Affairs

Students should be planning now to apply for Texas Chapter AFS Scholarships for next year. Information about the scholarships will be mailed out in September to school contacts. Don't miss out on these scholarships.

Plans for Annual Meeting include Student/Professional Mentoring opportunities -- Sign up to request/provide a mentor for the days of the meeting.

Activities will include:

- Student/Professional teams working with kid-fish tournament
- Student/Professional team participating in sporting events such as volleyball, swimming, racket ball, tennis at the athletic facilities of the conference center;
- Student/Professional mixer;

Students should apply for free room in exchange for their services at the meeting to run projectors, carry messages, work at the registration table, etc....

Student Paper presentation award(s) to be judged at the meeting and awarded. We will invite student back the following year to give invited plenary talk on their research progress or completion.

Fran Gelwick
Assistant Professor
Fisheries Management and Ecology
Texas A & M University

THE MAGNUSON-STEVENSON ACT: SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

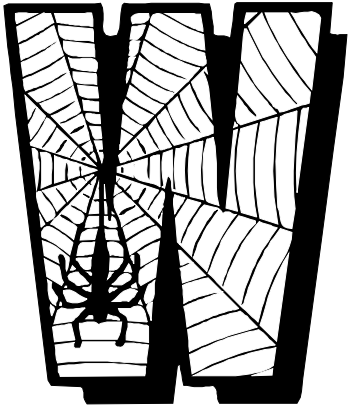
A critical examination of issues associated with implementing the new Federal Fisheries Law.

September 5-6, 1997
Tulane Law School
New Orleans, LA

There will be sessions on Overfishing, Essential Fish Habitat, Bycatch, International Management, The Magnuson-Stevens Act, ITQ's, and breakout sessions. Make plans early as this is a busy weekend in New Orleans

For more information contact Sharon Stevenson at 504-865-5925 or srsteven@law.tulane.edu or check for updates at www.law.tulane.edu/events.htm.





EBSTER'S WORDS

WEB SITE REVIEWS

AQUACULTURE NETWORK INFORMATION CENTER

www.ansc.purdue.edu/aquanic/

The Aquaculture Network Information Center (AquaNIC) is an excellent clearinghouse of information about fish and aquaculture. It is a gateway to the world's electronic resources for aquaculture. The site is maintained at Purdue University and is backed by the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program, the Cooperative Extension Services at Purdue University and the University of Illinois, the USDA North Central Regional Aquaculture Center and the World Aquaculture Society .

AquaNIC's mission is to be the gateway to the world's electronic resources in aquaculture. This site can connect you to publications including books and journals, newsletters, multimedia information, internet sites, email addresses of individuals worldwide with interests in aquaculture, classified ads, job and resume listings, and computer training information. AquaNIC has gone a long way to becoming the most comprehensive clearinghouse for aquaculture information. This is a very valuable link for anyone in the business.

AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

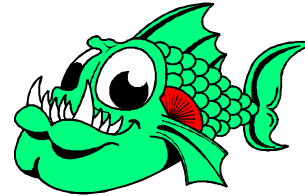
www.uwin.siu.edu/~awra/

This site focuses on all aspects of water resources. Its mission is to promote understanding of water resources and related issues by providing a multidisciplinary forum for education, professional development and information exchange. The site contains the typical society or association information like the presidents message, membership information, listings of conferences and symposia, sections, chapters, committees, etc.

A unique feature of this site is the complete textual content of the 1996 proceedings online. The 1996 proceedings were focused on GIS and water resources and there are many papers of value to anyone dealing with GIS. The association is planning to also publish the 1997 proceedings online. The 1997 proceedings will focus on education and lessons for the 21st century. This is a great way to get information out to anyone interested in water resources.

This site also has an online bookstore, jobline, and links to water and hydrology related sites. Graphics are limited so loading is very fast but all text does make the site less visually appealing.

NEWS BITES



CITES Proposal - Freshwater Mussels. On Apr. 16, 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it had submitted a proposal to remove three species of freshwater mussels from CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora) Appendix II. [Federal Register]

Michigan Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. On May 20, 1997, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials announced that Michigan's "Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species State Management Plan" had been approved by the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. MI is the second state to have a management plan approved, and permits MI to request federal funds for implementation. [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service press release, Assoc Press]

Developing El Nino. On May 15, 1997, NOAA announced that early indications had been detected of, and models appeared to confirm, a developing El Nino condition in the tropical Pacific. [NOAA press release]

Bycatch reduction device lawsuit. On June 13, 1997, U.S. District Judge Anthony A. Alaimo continued a preliminary hearing on a lawsuit charging that Georgia state regulations requiring shrimpers to use bycatch reduction devices to protect Atlantic coastal weakfish (yellow trout) are unsupported by science and could reduce shrimp harvest by 38%. A full hearing on this case is scheduled for June 30, 1997. [Assoc Press]

Cause of Shrimp Death? TX Parks and Wildlife Dept. biologists are working to determine the cause of death of 1,174 adult white shrimp at the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, Flour Bluff, TX, between May 14 and May 21, 1997. Biologists fear Asian "white spot" disease may have been responsible, but are conducting DNA tests to identify the cause. [Assoc Press]

GET READY TO



CATCH THE ACTION

MAKE PLANS FOR THE '98 ANNUAL TEXAS CHAPTER MEETING

The Meeting is still some months away, but it is not too early to plan to participate and attend. The meeting is in Athens, TX January 25 - 27, 1998, with some optional activities on January 24th. There should be something for everyone. The facilities of the Cain Center will be our location (with free sports facilities also available). Socials (and tours) at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center will provide exciting breaks from the technical presentations.

Make your plans and **BE THERE!**



These are questions that people actually asked of Park Rangers around the country.

Grand Canyon National Park

- Was this man made?
- Do you light it up at night?
- I bought tickets for the elevator to the bottom, where is it?
- Is the mule train air conditioned?
- So, where are the faces of the Presidents?

Everglades National Park

- Are the alligators real?
- Are the baby alligators for sale?
- Where are all the rides?
- What time does the 2 O'clock bus leave?

Denali National Park

- What time do you feed the bears?
- Can you show me where the yeti lives?
- How often do you mow the tundra?
- How much does Mt. McKinley weigh?

Mesa Verde National Park

- Did people build this, or did Indians?
- Why did they build the ruins so close to the road?
- Do you know of any undiscovered ruins?
- Why did the Indians decide to live in Colorado?

Carlsbad Cavern National Park

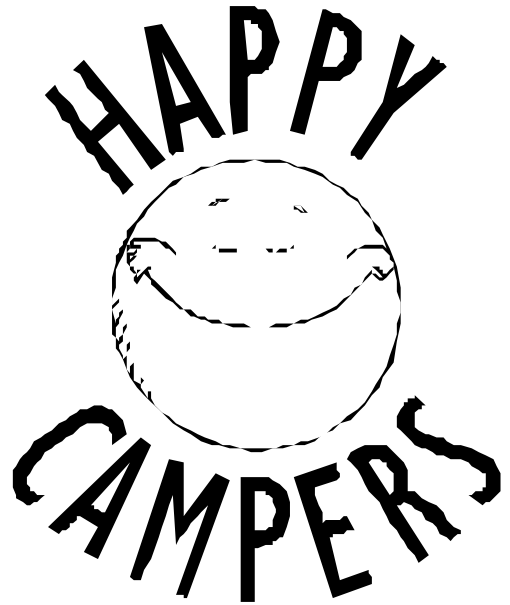
- How much of the cave is underground?
- So, what's in the unexplored part of the cave?
- Does it ever rain in here?
- So, what is this, just a hole in the ground?

Yosemite National Park

- Where are the cages for the animals?
- What time do you turn on Yosemite falls?

Yellowstone National Park

- Does old faithful erupt at night?
- How do you turn it on?
- When does the guy who turns it on get to sleep?
- We had no trouble finding the park entrances, but where are the exits?



BILLIONS AND BILLIONS SPENT: WILDLIFE-RELATED RECREATION CONTINUES TO BE NATIONAL ECONOMIC FORCE

Hunting, fishing, bird watching, and other wildlife-related recreation continued to be a powerful economic engine in 1996, with participants spending \$96.9 billion in pursuit of these pastimes and supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, according to preliminary data from the Nation's most comprehensive survey on this subject, conducted every 5 years by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This represents more than a 59-percent increase in expenditures since 1991, when the Service last conducted its National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Related Recreation, and accounts for about 1.3 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product, which measures the size of the economy.

"The survey confirms again that it is impossible to separate the well-being of our Nation's wildlife and wildlife habitat from the health of our economy," said Acting Service Director John Rogers. "Our fish and wildlife are not just a priceless treasure we hand down from one generation to another, they are the source of jobs and growth for both the national and local economy from coast to coast."

The survey, which is conducted for the Service by the U.S. Census Bureau, showed that the number of hunters and anglers 16 years and older stayed relatively constant during the past 5 years. There were 35.2 million anglers in 1996 compared with 35.6 million in 1991. Likewise, there were 14 million hunters compared with 14.1 million in 1991. Overall, the number of anglers and hunters fell slightly to 39.7 million from 40 million in 1991.

Total expenditures by anglers and hunters rose 69 percent during the 5-year period to \$67.9 billion. Spending by anglers rose 47 percent to \$36.2 billion from \$24.6 billion in 1991 while hunters spent \$17.7 billion, up 75 percent from \$10.1 billion in 1991. The remaining expenditures could be attributed to whether hunting or fishing.

Meanwhile, the number of bird watchers, wildlife photographers, and other nonconsumptive participants 16 years and older dropped 17 percent during the 5-year period to 63 million from 76 million in 1991. Even so, their expenditures rose 39 percent to \$29 billion.

Twenty-four million Americans took trips for the specific purpose of observing, photographing, or feeding wildlife in 1996 while 61 million enjoyed nonconsumptive wildlife-related recreation around their homes. In all, 18 percent of the population 16 and older fished during 1996, 7 percent hunted, and 31 percent participated in nonconsumptive wildlife-related recreation, the study showed.

"Millions of Americans have made hunting, fishing, birdwatching, and other wildlife-related recreation an important part of their lives," Rogers said. "This year's survey confirms that Americans have a national love affair with wild places and wild creatures."

As part of the survey, the Census Bureau initially screened 80,000 households. From this, the bureau chose 28,000 sportsmen and women and 14,400 nonconsumptive participants 16 years and older for detailed surveys throughout the year.

More complete preliminary data will be available this summer followed by a final national report in November. State-by-state reports will be released from November through March 1998.

April 30, 1997

Hugh Vickery 202-208-1456

News releases are also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fws.gov/~r9extaff/pubaff.html> They can be reviewed in chronological order or searched by keyword.



Exotic Snail And Trematode Affecting Endangered Fish

by Pam Fuller, TorBrandt

Tom Brandt of the National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center (USGS/BRD) in San Marcos, Texas has recently discovered that an introduced snail, the red-rimmed melania *Melanoides tuberculata*, and its introduced trematode, as yet unnamed, may be affecting survival of the federally endangered fountain darter *Etheostoma fonticola*. At least three populations of this snail and trematode are known in Central Texas: one in the San Antonio River in San Antonio, another in the Comal River (entire 2 mile length), and the third in the upper 2-3 miles of the San Marcos River. The fountain darter only occurs in the Comal and San Marcos rivers and the trematode has only been found in the fountain darters in the Comal River. The San Antonio and Comal rivers have yellow-crowned night-heron rookeries associated with them while the San Marcos River does not. The adult stage of the trematode (fluke) lives in the intestines of the night-heron. The fluke lays eggs in the intestine which passes in the bird's feces into the river. The eggs hatch and the resulting larvae enter snails. After an appropriate time in the snails, a different larval form leaves the snails and enters the gills of fishes. When an infested fish is eaten by a night-heron, another larval form that developed in the fish develops into a fluke in the bird and the cycle begins again. It appears that the green throat darter *E. lepidum* and the fountain darter are not normal hosts for the trematode since most larvae found on the gills are encysted and dead. Low levels of infection in fountain darters were first found on fish collected during the summer of 1995. By October of 1996, the fish were exhibiting high levels of infections, 50--100 cysts per gill arch. One greenthroat darter was collected with 160 cysts on a single gill arch! Researchers at the San Marcos NFHTC and Southwest Texas State University will sample the Comal and San Marcos rivers monthly to monitor the parasite. Robin Overstreet, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, MS, is in the process of naming the trematode. Harold Murray, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, is studying the relationships among the snail, trematode, various fishes, and various birds.

Another Exotic Snail

New Zealand mudsnail

Potamopyrgus antipodarum (Gray)



Description - Also known as *Potamopyrgus jenkinsi* (Smith) An elongate Hydrobiidae in running waters reaching about 5 mm in length with a solid shell. It has basic horn color of our pulmonates, but has an operculum and it is much more solid. They are live-bearing parthenogenetic species that are essentially all female.

An introduced species so far known only in the Madison River, Montana above Hebgen Lake. This population was discovered in the summer of 1995, but the very large population already present must mean that the introduction was a few years old at that time. It is native of New Zealand, but long established in Australia and Europe. This species has been known in North America since 1987 in the Snake River between Shoshone Falls and the C.J. Strike Dam. It is reported to pass through the digestive tracks of fish alive and then give birth! Population levels may exceed 100,000 per square meter, which should be nearly a solid layer of the snails! It occupies wide microhabitat conditions and tolerates some pollution. In the Madison River, it is most abundant in shoreline areas in moderate current on solid substrates. Overhanging grasses might be covered nearly solid with the snails. Lower densities occur on rocks in the mid channel and upon silty sand bars. I did not find any live specimens in thick silt or mud. It seems probable that this species will spread to the upper parts of the Snake River, but I did not find it there in 1995. Its spread is unpredictable until its environmental needs are better known. Substantial impacts on the native Madison River invertebrates and then fish and birds seem likely, but cannot be well predicted. Common pulmonate snails were abundant in 1995. The only native prosobranch in the river, *Valvata humeralis* is already very rare.



Editor's Note: Other reviewed information indicates this species most likely direction of spread is to the midwest and south, possibly to Texas?. From rivers.oscs.montana.edu

