



The Newsletter of the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society



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Summer Issue

August 2001

President's Message



Gordon Linam



I hope that each of you are enjoying the summer so far and are already making plans to attend the Annual Chapter meeting scheduled for Junction in January 2002. Gene Wilde reports the meeting is already shaping up to be a great one. I have attended several meetings at the Texas Tech facility in Junction which Gene has reserved for our Chapter meeting. It is a very nice facility and a great location choice for the 2002 meeting. In addition to the nice building facilities, the South Llano River runs along the property providing not only recreational opportunities but also an outdoor classroom for some continuing education possibilities that Bruce Hysmith is considering.

I am very pleased and excited to announce that Ray Mathews, Jr. has produced the first draft of our Texas Chapter's history. These were distributed at the last Executive Committee meeting. We are looking for interested reviewers (who have some history behind them) to take a look at this draft. If you are interested in getting a copy please contact one of the Executive

Committee members or Committee Chairs listed within this newsletter. Ray is also still interested in obtaining photographs from past Chapter meetings and activities for the archives.

On another note, Kevin Pope (Membership Committee Chair) provided some very interesting facts concerning the Chapter's membership at our last Executive Committee meeting. Presently the chapter has 216 members, of which only 22 are students. The paucity of student members was a very big surprise to me and encourages a renewed emphasis on reaching out to fishery students. Kevin and I are going to draft a letter to the respective departments of every Texas university which has fishery and/or environmental studies in order to re-introduce the Texas Chapter to them as well as outline the benefits of joining. Larry Hysmith (Student Outreach Chair) is also planning some new activities for the Chapter meeting which hopefully will attract more students. Another surprise from the Membership Committee research is the high membership turnover. Our total membership numbers have remained relatively stable over the last few years; however, the individuals comprising those numbers change considerably. For example, 73 individuals who were members during 2000 did not renew their membership in 2001; however, 64 new members came on board to replace them. The Executive Committee will be looking at ways to retain membership and to decrease this high turnover rate.



TCAFS ExCom Meeting

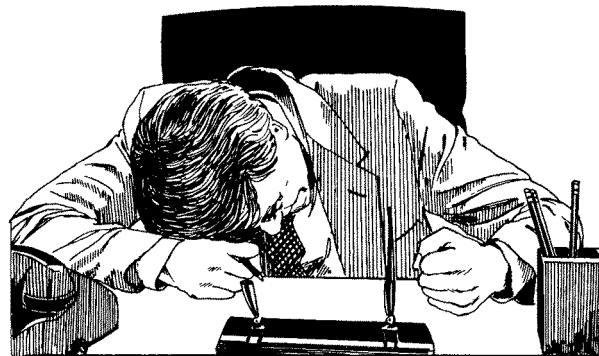
Debbie Wade

The second TCAFS ExCom meeting for 2001 was held July 16, 2001 at the TPWD District Inland Fisheries Office in Abilene. A special thanks goes to the Inland Fisheries District 1-B crew for fixing lunch. The fish was great. Special thanks goes to Galen Jons for modeling hats. In attendance were Gordon Linam, Gene Wilde, Kevin Pope, Robert Mauk, John Moczyzembra, Bruce Hysmith, Larry Hysmith, Aaron Barkoh, and Deborah Wade.

- The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by president Gordon Linam.
- **Secretary/Treasurer**– reported current combined balance as of June 30, 2001 is \$27,728.95 with \$7,117.00 in checking and \$20,611.95 in investments. The market is still going down and the investment councilors for this account continue to advise waiting things out predicting the market will get better in a few months. Of course I also hear this about my 401K, which also is looking somewhat anemic.
- **President-elect**– Gene Wilde presented an update on the 2002 meeting that will be held January 20-22, 2002 at the Texas Tech University Campus in Junction, Texas.
- **TTU Student Chapter**– their second fish fry fundraiser was successful despite some minor problems. Activity is suspended until the beginning of the fall semester.
- **Newsletter**– Robert Mauk stated that 191 copies of the newsletter were e-mailed to the membership and others and 139 were mailed in April.
- **Awards**– Danny Lewis sent a report. The TCAFS webpage has been updated with the award information so that it is even easier for members to nominate individuals for recognition within TCAFS. The committee has developed a new award for the membership's consideration, that of poster presentation which will be judged at the annual meeting each year.
- **Continuing Education**– Bruce Hysmith began by saying that he was seeking topics for this year's meeting. Topics suggested by the ExCom included: stream discharge measurements, stream accessibility issues, fish disease especially the LMBV and issues relating to golden and other toxic algae blooms.
- **Editorial**– Aaron Barkoh has mailed all of the proceedings to members and university libraries. He has sent out a call for manuscripts and updated abstracts for the proceedings, which will go to the reviewers in early August.
- **Membership**– Kevin Pope distributed a list of current and last year's members. Presently we have 216 members with 64 new members. We lost 73 members from last year. We currently have 22 student members down from 30 last year.

We need to urge our co-workers to join and participate in TCAFS.

- **Nominating**– John Moczyzembra, the mailout system is working well and will be continued.
- **Publicity and Exhibits**– Cody Winfry asked if the chapter wished to have caps made for the next meeting. The ExCom agreed that this was a good idea and several caps were examined to determine the style most likely to be chosen by the membership.
- **Student Outreach**– Larry Hysmith is very excited about this position and had several suggestions for activities at the upcoming meeting in an attempt to encourage more participation on the part of both students and professionals. Among the suggestions were a college quiz bowl and photo contest (open to all members) look for further information in the newsletter.
- **Ad Hoc Committee: Archives**– have been completed and are in the process of being reviewed. Volumes 8, 10, 14 and 15 of the proceedings could not be located. If anyone has a copy of these please contact a member of the ExCom so that we can add a copy of each to the archives.
- **Endowments, Internet, Issues, Pond Management**– no reports.
- **Old Business:**
 - Gordon has made a list of everyone receiving courtesy copies of the newsletter and requested that it be reviewed to see if some can be deleted and if others need to be added to the list.
 - The chapter needs to look at having a focused membership drive targeting members who did not attend the last meeting, under-represented areas of the state, and universities.
- **New Business:**
 - Gordon submitted the paperwork for Chapter of the Year Award to both the parent organization and to the Southern Division AFS.
 - The next ExCom meeting will be held in Abilene at the TPWD District Inland Fisheries Office in October.



President Gordon Linam during the last ExCom meeting.

History Project for the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is now 25 years old. The history of the Chapter is not well documented and we need the help of our members.

If you have pictures (and can identify people and events in them), meeting notes, files that contain information on Chapter business, can write something you remember about important events or people in the Chapter, can refer me to someone that would be helpful, or can provide information from memory that would help us document the history of the Texas Chapter, now is your opportunity to help write the history of the organization. Gordon asked me to take on this project since I was successful in writing the history of the Texas Organization for Endangered Species (TOES), and I accepted with anticipation that many members will be very helpful in providing information. I was surprised that there is only one file box for the entire documentation of the Texas Chapter. When I started the TOES History Project, there were 15 file boxes of information that I had to work through, and was almost overwhelmed with the amount of history that this organization had achieved.

I know that the Texas Chapter has a lot of history too, but we need a lot more information in order to document it. I have been a member of the Texas Chapter for 15 years, and know how many committees and issues that our members have been involved with, and we want to provide you with a document that you will proud of. However, we need your help with this, so please take the time to go through your files, your pictures and slides, and your thoughts on this matter. The Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society has asked all the affiliated Chapters to provide a poster of their history for the Southern Division meeting next year. Hopefully, we will have something to provide on our history at that meeting. Please contact me by phone, email, or regular mail with any help you can provide in this matter, and we will all thank you for taking the time to do that.

Raymond C. Mathews, Jr.
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Fisheries Awards Call for Nominations

By Danny Lewis

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for outstanding work in Fisheries? The Texas Chapter AFS awards committee would like to hear about this individual or group. Nominations based on the following criteria should be sent to Danny Lewis by Friday, December 7th at:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Attn: Danny Lewis
11810 FM 848
Tyler, TX 75707-5234
Phone (903) 566-1615 x201
Fax (903) 566-1546
E-mail = danny.lewis@tpwd.state.tx.us

This year, for the very first time, you may nominate someone online, by going to the Texas Chapter website (<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs>) and clicking the "Awards" link. A list of criteria for each award may be found there as well.

Each year nominations are solicited for Special Recognition and Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year in seven (7) categories: Administration, Culture, Education, Management, Research, Technical Support, and Fisheries Student.

AWARD CRITERIA

Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year

- Nominations can be made only by members in good standing.
- The recipient must be a member in good standing.
- The award is based on fisheries-related work accomplished in Texas and can span more than one year.
- The worker may not be on the Awards Committee.

Special Recognition in Fisheries Work

- Nominations can be made only by members in good standing.
- The recipient may or may not be a member.
- The recipient may be an individual or an organization.



- Recognition should be based on fisheries-related work done in the State of Texas, but can span more than one year.
- Work may, but does not have to, fit into the 7 categories listed above.

[Remember – Everything about this award and recognition program starts with YOU nominating someone!](#)

TCAFS Will Have Poster Presentation at Annual Meeting

By Danny Lewis

For all of you who have an interest in poster presentations, this year we are adding poster presentations to the annual meeting. This will give those with visually creative skills a chance to showcase their talents. A best poster award will be awarded. This is your chance to be the charter award recipient! A vote during the business meeting will be taken on making this a permanent addition to the chapter awards.



Save the Chapter Money, Receive Your Newsletter by Downloading from the Internet!

It costs the chapter about \$1.00 for each newsletter that is mailed out. In an effort to cut costs, a downloadable version on the Chapters homepage can be accessed by internet at <http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs>. Members with e-mail who formerly received a text version of the newsletter will now receive an e-mail notice when the new downloadable newsletter has been posted. The internet copy is identical to the hard copy. Also, many of the e-mail addresses we have are old or might have mistakes. I would appreciate hearing from anyone that has an e-mail address but currently receives a hard copy of the newsletter and wants to change over. The money the chapter saves can be put to a better use such as paying the newsletter editor. My address and e-mail are listed in the back. Thanks for your help.



New Members

Please join me in welcoming Timothy Bonner, Raphael Brock, John Dedden, Dr. Larisa Ford, Debbie Magin, Barry Sanders, and Chad Thomas Barry Sanders as new members of the Texas Chapter of the AFS.

CARA PASSES U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE

The bipartisan Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA, H.R. 701) introduced by Congressmen Young (R-Alaska), Hansen (R-Utah), and Tauzin (R-Louisiana) passed a major milestone when the House Resources Committee voted 29-12 to report the bill to the full U.S. House of Representatives. Last session, CARA passed the House and a Senate committee, but never made it out of the full Senate. CARA would use federal oil and gas receipts to fund land conservation, wildlife and recreation programs, as well as "impact aid" for coastal states. The bill would provide an estimated \$130 million per year in new federal matching dollars for Texas, benefiting coastal areas, state and local parks, wildlife, historic sites, educational efforts and private landowners. The new version of CARA includes stronger property rights protections. The bill mandates that each federal land acquisition be a federal budget line item, so that members of Congress may object to any land purchase in their districts. CARA also fully funds the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program that helps local communities offset lost property taxes after land is acquired by the government. H.R. 701 prohibits the federal government from using adverse condemnation to acquire new lands. CARA funds will not be used to acquire property unless the owner willingly agrees to sell or if the acquisition receives express Congressional approval. Some conservationists support the bill, but many have opposed it, expressing concern that the bill inadequately constrains the use of royalty receipts to be devoted to conservation purposes, and creates an incentive for other states to support coastal drilling off Alaska. A vote is expected after the August recess.

Water Planning in Texas

Gordon Linam

In June 1997, Governor George W. Bush signed into law Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), comprehensive water legislation enacted by the 75th Texas Legislature. This comprehensive water legislation was an outgrowth of increased awareness of the vulnerability of Texas to drought and to the limits of existing water supplies to meet increasing demands as population grows. The state's population is expected to increase from its current level of about 19 million to more than 39 million people by the year 2050. SB 1 designated the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) as the lead state agency for coordinating the regional water planning process and developing a comprehensive state water plan. To accomplish these tasks, the TWDB developed planning guidance documents to govern how regional water plans were to be developed, delineated sixteen planning areas, and designated planning group representatives. The regional water planning groups (RWPG) were charged with the task of determining how future water needs in their respective regions might be met. The preparation and adoption of the plans are now complete. Each regional water plan includes information about water supplies and demand, water quality problems affecting water supply, and social and economic characteristics of the region. The plans also identify water supply threats to agriculture and natural resources. Information concerning current preparations for drought and the status of other water plans in the region are also reviewed. These planning efforts have culminated in the proposal of a number of new major reservoirs and major water conveyances (see figures). Specific information on any of these proposals can be found in the RWPG final plans which are published on the TWDB web site:

www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/rwpg/main-docs/regional-plans-index.htm

PROPOSED MAJOR RESERVOIRS (greater than 5,000 acre-feet of storage capacity recommended to meet specific needs)

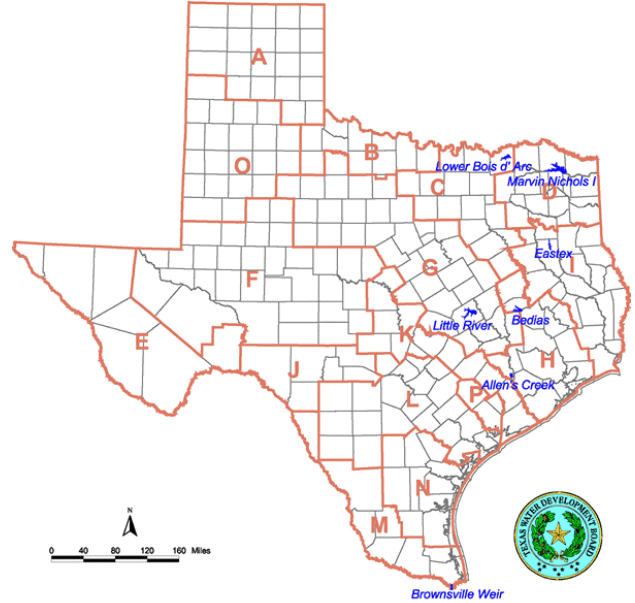


Figure 5

PROPOSED MAJOR CONVEYANCES

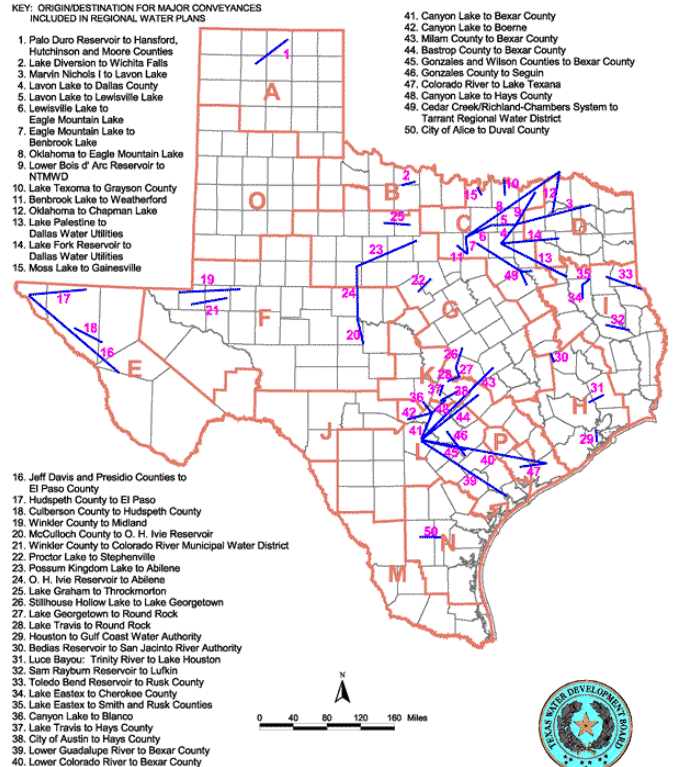


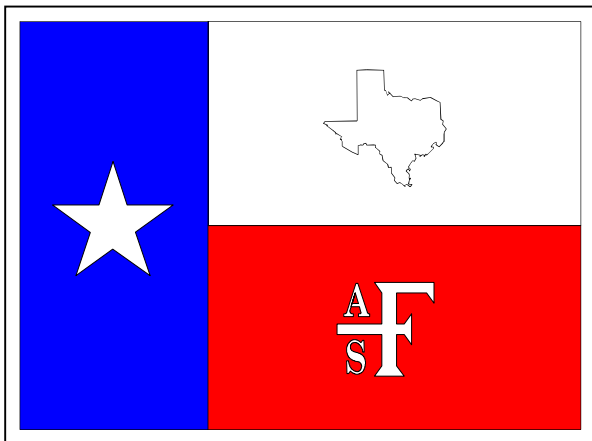
Figure 6

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://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/default.htm> or contact **Dr. Kevin Pope, Box 42125, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2125, (806) 742-2843, kevin.pope@ttu.edu** or the newsletter editor to obtain application information.

**Next Newsletter submission deadline:
October 22, 2001Fall Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Submit a hard copy or a .TXT file by mail or email to the editor at **maukrobert@hotmail.com**



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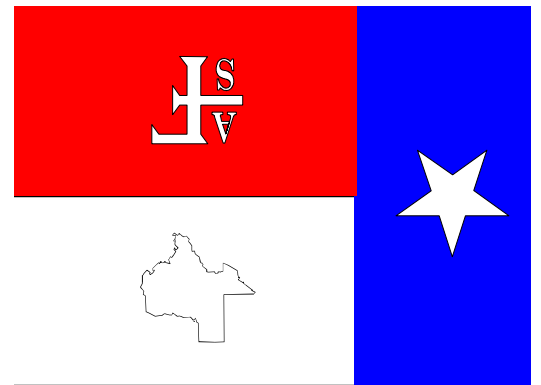
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