

The Newsletter of
the Texas Chapter of
the American
Fisheries Society



Volume 29 (1)

Spring Issue

March 2003

President's Message

Gary Garrett

I hope all who attended the annual meeting had a great time. We set a new record in attendance and, I believe, in quality papers and posters. Let's do even better next year!

Moody Gardens was a classy setting and their staff really worked with us to make the meeting happen. Putting the meeting on was quite a chore, but I was helped greatly by Jay Rooker, Debbie Wade and Paula Hawkins. Jay Rooker and Tim Bonner did a great job with the program, Brian Van Zee and David DeLeon really scored on the raffle and auction items and Bart Durham and crew provided the usual deserving group of award recipients.

Rather than have the President-Elect start from scratch each year and try to anticipate all the twists and turns of putting on a meeting, we have decided to create an ad hoc committee to aid the President-Elect. It will be composed of those who deal in various ways with the meeting each year: Secretary/Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Editorial Chair. This "group" knowledge and experience should be especially helpful when we put on the Southern Division meeting in 2006.

Once again the question of why we have our meeting when we do came up (it does every year at every meeting). I thought it might be interesting to take a poll of the membership as to what the most desirable time for a meeting would be. Pick your favorite: 1) January, 2) September, or 3) Other and e-mail me your vote at gary.garrett@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Lastly, Debbie Wade has graciously agreed to take over the newsletter duties from Robert Mauk. Thanks for the great work Robert and thank you Debbie for continuing to serve the Texas Chapter in so many ways.



170 members attended the annual meeting in Galveston this year, our highest attendance ever!



TCAFS ExCom Meeting

Paula Hawkins

In attendance were Gary Garrett, Fred Janssen, Tim Bonner, Craig Bonds, Bart Durham, and Paula Hawkins. President Gary Garrett called the meeting to order on February 27, 2003 at 9:30 am.

Gary Garrett – Had a great TCAFS annual meeting in Galveston, wants to keep up the momentum that was gained at the meeting. It was suggested and agreed to have an Ad Hoc committee to aid in preparation of the TCAFS annual meetings. This committee will be chaired by the President Elect and will consist of Secretary/Treasurer, Membership Chair, and Editorial Chair. Texas will be the host of the 2006 Southern Division meeting. Different sites were recommended and there will be further discussion at the next ExCom meeting. It was recommended to take a poll from members on the possibility of changing the month of the TCAFS annual meeting. January 1, 2004 the Texas Chapter annual membership dues will increase to \$12. Debbie Wade has agreed to take over as Newsletter Editor. Next ExCom meeting will be held either late April or early May.

Bart Durham conveyed a big thank you from the Texas Tech Student Chapter of AFS to the AFS Texas Chapter for allowing them to place the autographed basketball in our auction. The proceeds will help fund the student chapter's annual fish fry which raises money to have a one-on-one fishing clinic with handicapped kids. What a great outreach!

Pond Management / Craig Bonds: Several add-ons have been received for the committee increasing from 3 members to 12 members. The committee is soliciting for opinions and/or advice on issues that need to be addressed for pond management. Suggestion was made to use links from the TPWD website on the TCAFS website for pond information.

Editorial / Tim Bonner: Request was made to have abstracts entered and saved on the webpage for the annual meeting. Fred is looking into the possibility for the set up to be similar to the parent society webpage. Members that will display accepted posters will need to provide dimensions prior to the TCAFS annual meeting. In order to save printing costs, a recommendation was made for the 2003 Proceedings to be available electronically with an option to place an order for a hard copy that will be available at the annual meeting.

Endowments / Mike Brice: Scholarship checks and award certificates were mailed out to recipients that were not present at the TCAFS meeting in Galveston. Debbie Wade suggested presenting W.H.A.T. with a TCAFS award of appreciation at their banquet October 4, 2003 in Houston. Someone representing TCAFS could attend the banquet and make the presentation, as well as personally delivering the donated fishing rod and reel combination.

Publicity/Exhibits / Brian VanZee and David DeLeon: Thank you notes have been sent out to all the vendors as well as everyone who donated items to the raffle. We will begin soliciting prizes for next year's raffle beginning June-July.

Membership / Dennis Smith and Jason Vajnar: Reports 166 paid members with a few more still coming in, which 71 of those are members of the parent society. After reviewing the registration forms from the annual meeting, approximately 55 people that attended were not members of TCAFS. Some were students that could be members of the student chapters, however there is a potential of 40 people to be solicited for new membership. Dennis and Jason would like to contact each one about becoming members.

Secretary/Treasurer / Paula Hawkins: The revenue that was collected from the TCAFS annual meeting totaled \$12,493.00, which included raising \$348.00 from the raffle and \$2,553.00 from the auction. Expenses that were incurred totaled \$13,749.98. Considering the



quality and location of the annual meeting last December, the overall cost was very reasonable. The attendance totals were as follows: 128 professional, 42 student, and 9 exhibitors.

Awards Presented at Galveston

Bart Durham, Awards Committee Chair

The Awards Committee made award presentations at the annual meeting banquet on 28 January 2003 in Galveston, TX. I thought it appropriate to have the award recipients recognized in this issue of the newsletter. Following is the list of award recipients for outstanding fisheries worker of the year and outstanding presentations:

Larry McEachron (TPWD Costal Division)—Special Recognition

Dennis Smith (TPWD)—Culture

Gene Wilde (Texas Tech University)—Education

Christine Burgess (Texas A&M University)—Student

Plaques were also presented for best presentations given at the previous annual meeting held in Junction, Texas. Award recipients were:

Michael Lowe, Gregory Stunz, and Thomas Minello—Best Poster Presentation

J. P. Turner, and Jay Rooker—Best Student Presentation

Jay Rooker, Bert Geary, Richard Kraus, and David Secor—Best Presentation

Winners of the best presentation awards at the 2003 Annual Meeting in Galveston were:

Best Presentation—Gregory W. Stunz, Thomas J. Minello, and Phillip S. Levin for the presentation titled “Selection of estuarine nursery habitats by wild-caught and hatchery-reared juvenile red drum.”

Best Student Presentation—Monte J. Brown, Felix Martinez Jr., Kevin L. Pope, and Gene R. Wilde for the presentation titled “Public opinion and support of an urban fishery program in Lubbock, Texas.”

Best Poster Presentation—Suraida Nañez-James and Thomas J. Minello for the poster titled “The effect of visible implant elastomer tags on growth and survival of juvenile blue crabs *Callinectes sapidus*.”

Note: Winners of the best presentation competition at Galveston will be recognized at next year’s Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to all.

Annual Proceedings of the TCAFS Will Soon be Available Online!

Tim Bonner

Due to rising publication costs, bound copies of the Annual Proceedings of the Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society will be available by request only. Contact Tim Bonner (512-245-3549, TBonner@swt.edu) by May 1, 2003, to order a bound copy of the 2003 Proceedings. The 2003 and future Proceedings will be available in Adobe format on TCAFS web page.

Thanks For the Support

The Publicity and Exhibits Committee would like to thank the TCAFS membership and the individuals and businesses for their donations and financial support. Once again we had a successful auction/raffle to raise scholarship money for college students enrolled in fisheries related curriculum. Now is the time to start thinking about next year,s auction/raffle and to start making contacts and securing prizes. You can never start too early! Thanks for making last meeting a success!



NOTES FROM THE PAST ELECTION

By

John Moczygamba

I would like to thank everyone who voted in this year's election of President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations to Fran Gelwick (President-elect) and Paula Hawkins (Secretary/Treasurer). Thanks to Debbie Wade (President-elect candidate) and Joan Glass (Secretary/Treasurer candidate) for running. The mail-in ballots accounted for 86% of the votes cast and allowed 57% of the membership to vote. The total vote accounted for 66% of the membership. We all deserve a pat on the back. The great prize for the mail-in ballot drawing was a one-day fishing trip with Fishing Guide J.B. Webb on Lake Texoma. He is also a local sportswriter. He donated a fishing trip for largemouth and smallmouth bass. He has been very successful in catching smallmouth bass. Thanks J.B. Webb. Congratulations go to Aaron Barkoh of the Heart of the Hills Research Station, TPWD, for mailing in his ballot and getting his name drawn. We will get a fishing trip donated again next year, so remember to get your ballot mailed back when you get it. Maybe you can spend a day on Lake Texoma with our auctioneer Bruce Hysmith. Just kidding!! Which brings me to another point. We received several mail-outs back this year because the address was wrong or the forwarding address had expired. I tried my best to get the right address and got a few sent

correctly, but some members could not be located. So make sure the Chapter has your right address. This may be easier since the parent society (AFS) will be keeping our membership list. Thanks again to Paul Hammerschmidt (TPWD, Austin) and his staff for putting the mail-in ballots together and sending them out. Thanks also go to Joe Warren (TPWD, Dundee) and Bobby Farquhar (TPWD, San Angelo) for their help in counting the votes. Looking forward to next year's elections and more voters.

New Book Releases from AFS:

Sustaining North American Salmon: Perspectives Across Regions and Disciplines

U.S. and Canadian fisheries professionals from multiple disciplines examine the history, current knowledge, and research needs of fisheries stakeholders, managers, and policy makers regarding salmon ecology, policy, and management in North America. This book offers a greater understanding of the complexity and repercussions of salmon management, currently a controversial issue between Canada and the United States. Information needs from biological, social, and economic perspectives are identified, enabling managers and policy makers to develop an action agenda to acquire and utilize this information. This excellent reference for the management of salmon presents a synthesis of the history, ecology, sociology, economics, politics/institutions, and the future of one of the most economically and culturally significant fishes in America.

413 pp., paper, November 2002

Stock #: 550.39

List price: \$69

AFS member price: \$48

ISBN# 1-888569-40-9



Population Genetics: Principles and Applications for Fisheries Scientists
Eric Hallerman, editor

The principles of population genetics have important bearing on the practice of fisheries science. However, fisheries managers do not typically receive training in population genetics. This is due, in large part, to lack of course materials in population genetics relevant to fisheries science. This book was born of a need perceived by many fisheries geneticists for the availability of a textbook for a course in fisheries genetics.

Qualified instructors too busy to develop their own course from scratch can use this title as a ready resource text for teaching such a course. Population Genetics is an excellent resource for making the field of population genetics relevant and accessible to students and practitioners of fisheries science.

507 pp., hardcover, March 2003
Stock Number: 550.34
List price: \$69.00
AFS member price: \$48
ISBN 1-888569-27-1

**Nutrients in Salmonid Ecosystems:
Sustaining Production and Biodiversity**
John Stockner, editor

The proceedings of the 2001 conference "Restoring Nutrients to Salmonid Ecosystems" and the first book of its kind, this volume presents recent information on the role and importance of marine derived nutrients in salmonid ecosystems. The authors examine how this research can be used effectively to assist in rebuilding salmonid stocks in the Pacific Northwest.

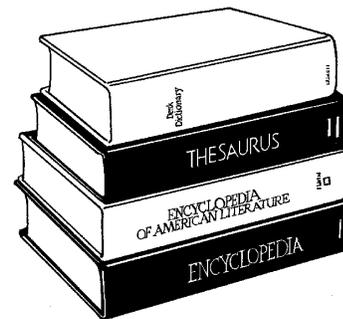
The book contains: (1) Description and management of historical and current nutrient regimes in salmonid ecosystems; (2) Ecological linkages between salmon and productivity of freshwater ecosystems and the

ecological impacts of a diminished salmon nutrient shadow; (3) Dispersal mechanisms of marine-derived nutrients in Pacific Northwestern freshwater ecosystems; (4)

The effects of hatcheries, harvest, and other resource management regimes on nutrients and their dispersal; and (5) An incorporation of nutrient management into ecosystem restoration.

AFS Symposium 34
302 pp., paper, February 2003
Stock Number: 540.34
List price: \$60
AFS member price: \$42

ISBN 1-888569-44-1



To order any of the above publications:
Online: www.fisheries.org/cgi-bin/hazel/cgi/hazel.cgi
Phone: (678) 366-1411, or Fax: (770) 442-9742
Email: afspubs@pbd.com

**American Fisheries Society
133rd Annual Meeting
Québec City, Québec, Canada
August 10-14, 2003**

"Worldwide decline of wild fish populations"

Preregistration begins April 2003. For more information on the meeting or to register online, please go to www.fisheries.org and click on "Annual Meeting"

4th World Fisheries Congress Vancouver, BC CANADA May 2 - 6, 2004

The Congress theme, "Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation: The Challenge of Managing Aquatic Ecosystems," will be addressed by a world class list of Keynote speakers, session topics, posters, limited presentations, round table discussions, forums, workshops and debates.

Online Abstract Submittal for the Fourth World Fisheries Congress will open April 2003. Please visit www.worldfisheries2004.org for details

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program

The Hutton is an educational program for high school students designed to develop interest in a career in fisheries among groups underrepresented in the fisheries profession, including minorities and women. AFS encourages its members to consider mentoring a student during the summer of 2003. For information on how you can get involved, go to <http://www.fisheries.org/Hutton.shtml>, or contact Christine Fletcher at cfletcher@fisheries.org, phone: 301-897-8616, ext. 213.

BASS 101 MEETING SET IN SAN MARCOS

Ready to learn more about managing ponds and lakes for better bass fishing? Mark March 28-29, 2003 on you calendar and help spread the word about this informative state-wide private water management workshop scheduled at the Activity Center in downtown San Marcos.

The program will be a slightly modified version of the highly successful Bass 101 workshop held in Athens two years ago. Co-sponsors include Texas A&M University's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Pre-registration by March 14th is \$75 per person or \$125 per person after that date and at the door.

The workshop targets private landowners and will include information on managing ponds, lakes and reservoirs for better fishing. However, both agency and private biologists will benefit from the wealth of information packed into this 1 1/2 day long program.

Each participant will also receive a copy of the workshop proceedings. In addition to presentations from recognized experts, a panel discussion will be conducted on improving pond fishing as well as a question and answer "Ask the Experts" panel.

Registrants will be eligible for three continuing education units for private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide license re-certification. In addition, a trade show will be conducted and exhibitors may reserve booth space at a cost of \$200 per booth.

To register or for further information, contact Billy Higginbotham at (903)-834-6191 or b-higginbotham@tamu.edu.

Propagated Fish In Resource Management Symposium

The Propagated Fish In Resource Management Symposium program, plus other conference information, has been placed on the website at: www.fishbiologycongress.org/PFIRM This Symposium, being held in Boise ID June 16-28, 2003, will be of interest to anyone involved in the use of cultured fish in fisheries management.

If you have any questions, please contact the Program Chair, John Nickum at jgnickum@hotmail.com.



FYI From ESA

We would like to alert you an opportunity to provide scientific input on an issue of importance to the ecological community.

EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers released an "Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" (ANPRM) on the definition of "waters of the US" under the Clean Water Act. The process which this notice has begun has the potential to impact headwater streams because it can define the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act (i.e., which streams are protected under the Act). It could eliminate federal oversight and put the burden on individual states to take the initiative to protect small streams.

Aquatic ecologists, in particular, may wish to comment on several key areas in the ANPRM: "One of the purposes of the ANPRM is to solicit additional information, data, or studies addressing the extent of resource impacts to isolated, intrastate, non-navigable waters."

"The ANPRM seeks information regarding the functions and values of wetlands and other waters that may be affected by the issues discussed in this ANPRM."

The full notice and guidance document can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/swanccnav.html>

We believe this offers an opportunity to articulate the value of headwater streams (including ephemeral and intermittent streams) as well as wetlands and encourage you to do so. Comments must be postmarked or emailed by **March 3, 2003.**

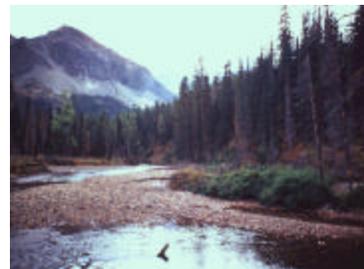
Mail comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OW-2002-0050. Or submit comments electronically by going to the above web site

and clicking on submit comments or by going directly to: <http://cascade.epa.gov/RightSite/formexec> The Docket number is OW-2202-0050.

The Ecological Society of America also plans to send a letter to EPA on this issue and would appreciate receiving copies of comments sent in by ESA members. Please send to Nadine Lynn, ESA Director of Public Affairs, Nadine@esa.org

Background:

This notice was issued in response to a Supreme Court decision that stated that isolated wetlands could not be covered by the Clean Water Act if the only criterion met was that they provided habitat for migratory birds. But the notice goes far beyond that limited statement. In the guidance document that is part of the notice, EPA and Corps staff are told they cannot assert CWA jurisdiction over isolated intrastate and non-navigable waters where the sole basis for jurisdiction is one of the following: "use of the water as habitat for birds protected by Migratory Bird Treaties; use of the water as habitat for Federally protected endangered or threatened species; or use of the water to irrigate crops sold in interstate commerce." Staff are required to seek project-specific approval from Headquarters before asserting jurisdiction (including permitting and enforcement actions) over intrastate non-navigable waters that meet one of the following criteria: "use of the water by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; the presence of fish or shellfish that could be taken and sold in interstate commerce; use of the water for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce." This appears to reduce the limited protection given to headwater streams under the Clean Water Act.

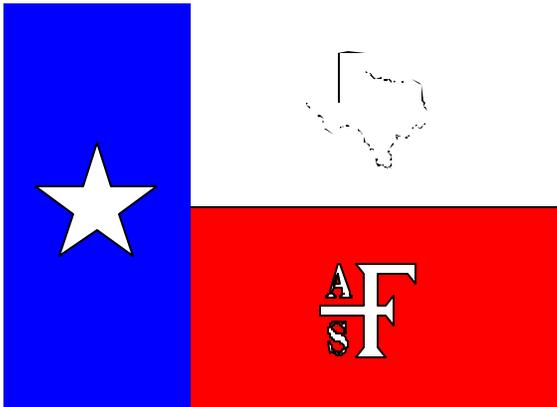


JOIN THE TEXAS CHAPTER

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 **Jason Vajnar or Dennis Smith, Rt 1 Box 123A, Electra, TX 76360-9502, (940) 586-1203, Jason.Vajnar@tpwd.state.tx.us** or the newsletter editor to obtain application information.

**Next Newsletter submission deadline:
May 9, 2003Summer Issue**

Submissions are encouraged. Submit a hard copy or a .TXT file by mail or email to the editor at **deborah.wade@tpwd.state.tx.us**



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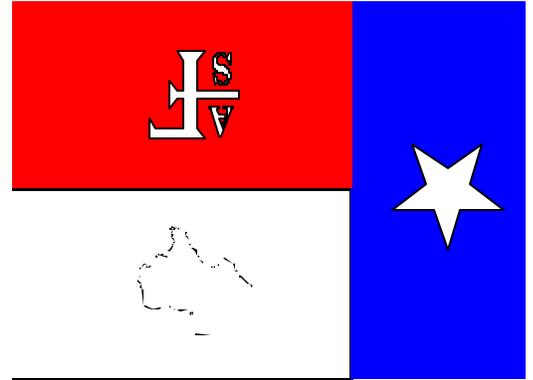
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