



The Newsletter of The Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

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May 2007

President's message:

by Art Morris

The best news for TCAFS this spring is that the annual meeting went swell. We had over 100 folks attend and by all accounts everyone had a great time. As with most endeavors no one person could have pulled it off and a big thanks goes out to several folks for their contributions. Jvonne Lalla and Juan Martinez did a bang up job on the auction items. Chef Bobby Miller served up a one heck of a pile of crayfish. Bruce Hysmith for his always amusing auctioneering technique. John Moczygamba for his efforts in getting us new leadership. All the folks who gave presentations should be commended on a job well done including our Continuing Education instructors – Craig Scofield and Nathan Khun. Ray Mathews should be commended for creating the first Clark Hubbs Memorial Scholarship program and Dave Terre for his fund-raising efforts. Deborah Wade who unexpectedly held down the registration table. A special thanks goes out to the Wetlands Special Session presenters – Kay Jenkins, Woody Woodrow and Jeff Gunnels – for their very interesting presentations. SeaCenter folks for hosting our evening social and the staff of the Cherotel for catering to our ever changing needs. There are numerous others that volunteer to be committee chairs and to all of you that attended that makes each annual meeting a great opportunity and the TCAFS an excellent organization.

Not to rest on our laurels though, we are in the process of putting together the next meeting and addressing other business so the Ex-Com will be meeting over the next months to shore up those plans. If you would like to see something different please let us know – come to a meeting and make a proposal. This organization can not grow if we do not involve all of you members in the future direction of the society.

Several opportunities have come up for those seeking to become more involved with the chapter. Bruce Hysmith is stepping down as Continuing Education chair and his partner John Moczygamba has stepped down as Nominating Committee chair, but Charlie Munger has volunteered to take his place. Perry Trial, Scholarship Committee chair is looking to step down, but will stay in the position until a replacement has been identified. For those stepping down, their service has been extraordinary and the next time you see them, thank them for their efforts. If you are looking to help lead this organization, then there is now better time than now to volunteer.

If anyone has any suggestions for anything concerning the Texas Chapter, please feel free to contact any of the members of the Executive Committee. Have a good year and happy fishing.

American Fisheries Society
137th Annual meeting, San Francisco
September 2-6, 2007



<http://www.fisheries.org/sf/>



President-elect's message:

by Tim Bonner

I appreciate this opportunity to serve the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The Texas Chapter has a long history (31 years) of supporting Texas professionals and students in fish and fisheries-related research, education, service, and management. As a chapter, I hope we continue this standard of excellence.

One way to ensure success of our Chapter is to actively recruit new members. Several private, state, and federal fish/fisheries-related professionals and numerous students are not members of the Texas Chapter. Let's encourage them to join and participate in Chapter activities.

Another way to ensure success is for our current members to become involved with Chapter activities. The Chapter has a number of committees; contact committee chairs and ask how you can help. A few hours of donated time by many will go a long way in sustaining our chapter's mission.

I'm looking forward to 2008 Chapter meeting and working with a great group of dedicated volunteers. My email address is TBonner@txstate.edu if you have any questions or suggestions. Unfortunately, I cannot accept complaints at this time (I believe Past-President Dave Terre is still in charge of the Complaints Department).

Editorial Committee

by Craig Bonds

- Committee Chair is transferring from Craig Bonds to Dan Daugherty. Dan is a fisheries research biologist with the TPWD Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center in Ingram.
- 2007 Proceedings are being drafted.
- 2005 and 2006 Proceedings will be mailed to selected university libraries soon.

Membership reminder

by Dennis Smith, Committee chair, Membership Committee

We're off to a good start this year. We concluded 2006 with a total of 171 members. After getting the meeting registration/memberships entered and getting an update from the parent society we already have 177 members for 2007. We have already surpassed the membership from last year!

Chapter membership is an annual membership by calendar year and you can join at any point during the year. Please remind your friends and co-workers to renew their membership if they have not done so already. As a reminder, you need to be a current member of the chapter to serve on committees, be eligible for awards, or to receive scholarships. Help the chapter out, recruit new members.

As some of you may know, in the past there have been some problems obtaining accurate and timely information from the parent society. Those problems appear to have been resolved. I received an updated list of chapter members within hours of submitting my request recently. The prompt service is certainly appreciated.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your membership status or need to update your contact information feel free to call (940) 586-1203 or email dennis.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us.

2007 Outstanding Presentation Award winners

Professional — Practices and perceptions of Texas anglers towards slot length limits and harvesting largemouth bass. **C. Craig Bonds**, John B. Taylor, and Jeremy Leitz (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

Student — How will new coal burning power plants in Texas affect mercury contamination in fish?

Matthew M. Chumchal, (University of Oklahoma), Michael C. Slattery, Ray W. Drenner, S. Matthew Drenner, and Leo Newland (Texas Christian University)

Poster — Largemouth bass population recovery following hydrilla control in Lake Bellwood, Texas. Richard A. Ott, Jr. and Timothy J. Bister (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

These awards will be presented at next year's annual meeting.



Pictured at left (from left to right): Perry Trial (Scholarship Committee), John Froeschke – TCAFS Graduate Student - Ph.D. Scholarship Award, Texas A&M – Corpus Christi, Katrina Cohen - Clark Hubbs Student Research Award – Texas State University – San Marcos, Brian Bartram – TCAFS Graduate Student – M.S. Scholarship Award, Baylor University, Dave Terre (Endowments Committee)

Pictured at right (from left to right): 2006 TCAFS Chapter award recipients who were present at the Lake Jackson meeting to receive their awards; Matthew Chumchal (Best student presentation), Christopher Chizinski (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Student), Bill Provine (Special Achievement), Gary Garrett (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Research), Reynaldo Cardona (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Technical Support), Charlie Munger (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Management), and Brad Littrell (Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year – Student, honorable mention).



Lake Jackson meeting – Photo gallery



TCAFS History Committee Report

By Ray Mathews, Jr., Chair

The Chapter has achieved several new historical accomplishments and milestones recently, and I would like to share those with you. It is the duty of the historian to keep tabs on issues that fall into our history making progress, and I am pleased to announce the following:

- The annual meeting at the Cherotel Brazosport Hotel and Conference Center in Lake Jackson, Texas was entirely reserved for TCAFS members. That is the first time in our history that we had an entire hotel to ourselves for an annual meeting.
- One of our members received an Outstanding Fisheries Worker award for the 3rd time. Dr. Gary Garrett received the Outstanding Fisheries Worker award for Fish Culture this year. In previous years, he received the award for Research and Management. This is a historical milestone for Gary, because it is the first time that a Chapter member has been awarded the Outstanding Fisheries Worker in three categories.
- Katrina Cohen was awarded the first Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, which included a \$500 check to help with her thesis research at Texas State University on the “Food habits of the suckermouth catfish *Hypostomus* in the San Marcos River (Hayes County).” Dr. Tim Bonner is her committee supervisor, and nominated her for the award.
- Randy Rushin, President of Water Monitoring Solutions, Inc. has been a TCAFS meeting exhibitor and sponsor for 10 years, which is a record for any of our sponsors. At this year’s raffle, he won the bid on a guided fishing trip, and then gave it to Mandy Scott, who had been bidding for it also. Randy just wanted to give some more money to the Chapter scholarship fund, and put a smile on Mandy’s face. He succeeded, and proved he is a good friend of the Chapter.

In addition to these milestones in the TCAFS history, I received a box of display items from Debbie Wade, Chapter Past-President, that were used for educational outreach back in the 1980-1990’s, which turned out to be a treasure of old pictures of Chapter members and annual meeting events. The box was in the District 3B Texas Parks & Wildlife Department field office in Tyler, Texas, and was apparently in an office formerly used by Barry Lyons, Steve Poarch and now by Kevin Storey. Most of the display items were from the 1989 annual meeting in San Antonio, and three of those pictures are shown below.

The display was used to show activities and goals of the TCAFS, and the pictures used to show them are now 18 years old. It is rare that I receive something that important in documenting our long history, and when I do I am very grateful and make it a part of your archives.



TCAFS President Earnest Alan (Mac) McCune and Bruce Hysmith at Auction and Raffle in Lone Star Party Room in 1989 – 18 years ago.



1989 Award Recipients – Left to Right: Gene McCarty (Dir., Coastal Fisheries), Robert Vega (Mgr., Corpus Redfish Hatchery), Cathy Dryden (Redfish Hatchery Biologist), Gordon Linam (Inland Fisheries, San Marcos), Joe Kraai (Inland Fisheries, Canyon).



This is the 1989 Banquet at Lone Star Brewery Party Room in San Antonio. TCAFS members are in the process of being identified, and these are some of those that we now know. If you recognize someone not indicated, please let me know.

Announcement for nominations – C.W. Watson Award

Nominations are being sought for the 2007 Clarence W. Watson Award. This annual award will be presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Conference in Charleston, West Virginia, October 21-24, 2007.

The Clarence W. Watson Award is the most prestigious award given in the Southeast and is presented to the career individual who, in the opinion of the Award Committee, has made the greatest contribution to wildlife or fish conservation during the previous year or years. Consideration includes research, administration, law enforcement, I&E, wildlife management, fish management, teachers, and students. Preference is given to nominees in the Southeast. The award is a mounted bronze plaque presented jointly by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society, the Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society, and the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

All southeastern U.S. fish and wildlife conservationists and other interested persons are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in the format shown below and should include complete information on the candidate's background; i.e., education, training, noteworthy accomplishments, and particularly, the achievement(s) for which the nomination is being made. The nomination should include, but not be limited to, a description of the accomplishment(s), application in the state and region concerned, time involved, and the amount of aid received from associates. As much information as possible should be furnished to aid the committee in making the selection. A previously unselected nominee may be resubmitted each year.

Selection will be based on specific accomplishment(s) and other information included in the letter of nomination. Nominations should be sent to: Robert Warren, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; warren@warnell.uga.edu; 706-542-4741 as soon as possible, but **not later than August 1, 2007**. Electronic submissions are encouraged.



Ancient coelacanth caught in Indonesia

This fisherman caught a four-foot, 110-pound coelacanth on May 19, 2007 off Sulawesi island near Bunaken National Marine Park in Indonesia. Coelacanths were believed to be extinct for 65 million years until one was found in 1938 off the east coast of Africa, igniting worldwide interest. Several other specimens have since been discovered, including another off Sulawesi island in 1998. The powerful predator is highly mobile with limb-like fins. It gives birth to live young rather than laying eggs, and they only live in deep, cold-sea environments.

Student Travel Grant Application

Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society

Please use this form to apply for a Student Travel Grant from the Fish Culture Section of the American Fisheries Society. Students receiving travel grants must be a member of the Fish Culture Section. Travel grants are to help students attend the AFS Annual Meeting to be held this year in San Francisco September 2-6, 2007. This application will be reviewed by a selection committee. Students who have an oral or poster presentation relevant to fish culture are particularly encouraged to apply. The decision of the selection committee is final. Students receiving a travel grant must attend the Fish Culture Section business meeting held at the AFS annual national meeting, and are strongly encouraged to attend the AFS business meeting.

Please complete the entire form and send it to:

Steve Lochmann
Aquaculture/Fisheries Center, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
1200 North University Drive, Mail Slot 4912
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603

Completed applications must be received no later than June 30, 2007. Please be brief and direct with your answer to the last question. Questions regarding Fish Culture Section Student Travel Grants can be directed to Steve Lochmann at slochmann@uaex.edu.

A. Personal Information

Name of applicant:

Address:

Phone number:

E-mail:

What University/College are you attending?

Current Status (please check): undergraduate masters student doctoral student

Current Grade Point Average (on a 4-point scale): _____

Are you currently a member of AFS (please check): Yes No

Are you currently a member of the Fish Culture Section (please check): Yes No

B. Reasons for Attending the Meeting:

Are you planning to present (oral or poster) research results at the meeting? (please check): Yes No

If yes, what is the title of your presentation?

What do you hope to accomplish by attending the AFS annual national meeting?

Note: This form has been re-formatted to fit on this page of the newsletter because of space considerations. You might consider copying and pasting it to a blank page.

TCAFS 2007 Annual Business Meeting Minutes – Lake Jackson, Texas – March 4, 2007

- **Call to order** – 10:15 AM (Debbie Wade)
- **Recognize Past-Presidents** (Debbie Wade)
 - In attendance were (in no particular order): Mark Webb, Gordon Linam, Gary Garrett, Charlie Munger, Fran Gelwick, Dave Terre, and Bill Provine
- **Approve 2006 Business Meeting Minutes** (as published in Spring 2007 Newsletter)
 - Minutes approved
- **Committee Reports**
 - Chapter Awards Presentations – Greg Conley
 - *Best presentations* (2006 Meeting)
 - Gregory Stunz – Professional
 - Matthew Chumchal – Student
 - *Best Poster* (2006 Meeting)
 - Claudia Friess
 - *Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year*
 - Larry McKinney – Administration
 - Gary Garrett – Culture
 - Charlie Munger – Management
 - Gary Garrett and Bob Edwards – Research
 - Chris Chizinski – Student
 - Brad Littrell – Student, honorable mention
 - Reynaldo Cardona – Technical Support
 - *Special Recognition in Fisheries Work*
 - Robert Howells
 - Fred Janssen
 - Craig Scofield
 - Sandy Henry
 - *Best Presentations (2007 Meeting) Named*
 - Craig Bonds – Professional
 - Matthew Chumchal – Student
 - *Best Poster (2007 Meeting) Named*
 - Richard Ott and Tim Bister
 - *Special Achievement (presented by Dave Terre)*
 - Bill Provine
 - Continuing Education – Bruce Hysmith
 - Reported on two workshops that were offered on Friday, March 2. The workshops were titled “Modeling with Geographic Information Systems: geo-processing models and the availability of geo-spatial data in Texas” and “Challenges to conserving Texas coastal wetlands”.
 - Workshops were lightly attended. Chair Hysmith was concerned and wondered if low attendance was due to lack of interest or scheduling conflicts with other professional meetings.
 - Reported on the issues related to certifying workshops for continuing education credits through the parent society and the complexities and hurdles involved.
 - Solicited members for ideas for future continuing education courses.
 - Editorial – Craig Bonds
 - Published 4 Proceedings since the last annual meeting.
 - 2003 and 2004 Proceedings were posted on the chapter website and hardcopies were mailed to select university libraries.
 - 2005 and 2006 Proceedings were posted on the chapter website and hardcopies were printed. Hardcopies will be mailed to select universities within the next few weeks.
 - 2007 Proceedings were being drafted.
 - Chair Bonds voiced the desire to keep the publishing of annual Proceedings on a one-year deadline.
 - Endowments – Perry Trial

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- Mentioned that Dave Terre's continued relationship with the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation resulted in a \$10,000 donation to the chapter this year. This donation matched last year's (2006) contribution which was twice the amount given in 2005, bringing the total received from this foundation to \$25,000. Dave Terre reminded student recipients the importance of sending thank-you letters to the donors. Chair Trial reported that the distribution of scholarship money would be expanded into four categories to include two undergraduate scholarships, one M.S. candidate, and one Ph.D. candidate. Graduate-level scholarships were not divided into two categories in prior years.
 - *Student Scholarships, \$1,250 each*
 - Brian Bartram – M.S. candidate, Baylor University
 - John Froeschke – Ph.D. candidate, Texas A&M – Corpus Christi
 - no undergraduate applications were submitted
 - *Clark Hubbs Student Research Award, \$500 (presented by Ray Matthews)*
 - Katrina Cohen – Texas State University – San Marcos
 - History – Ray Matthews
 - Lake Jackson meeting set records
 - 1st time a hotel was 100% reserved for a TCAFS meeting
 - 1st time a TCAFS member has accrued "Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year" honors in three categories (Gary Garrett for Management - 1996, Culture - 2007, and Research - 2007)
 - Demonstration of generosity during the live auction – Randy Rushin (Water Monitoring Solutions) purchased a guided fishing trip with lodging (after bidding up the price against Mandy Scott), then gave the trip to Mandy as a gift with his money going into the chapter's auction proceeds. Randy extended his record for the longest continuously active exhibitor and sponsor – since 1998.
 - Chair Matthews gave presentation on archiving TCAFS pictures. Members were solicited for additional pictures and assistance with identifying people in older photographs.
 - Internet – John Taylor
 - Committee will involve Texas State University – San Marcos students with the maintenance and operation of the chapter's website.
 - Issues – Gary Garrett
 - Provided updates on three issues.
 1. Critical Habitat Designation for the Devils River minnow
 2. City of Del Rio and the San Felipe Creek
 3. Rio Grande silvery minnow
 - Membership – Dennis Smith
 - Reported 163 members in 2006.
 - 106 memberships were renewed at the 2007 meeting with the addition of approximately 60 that renew through the parent society.
 - Reminded members to encourage coworkers to join and students, too!
 - Newsletter – Kevin Storey
 - 4 newsletters were published in 2006.
 - Reported that the membership list has proved problematic.
 - Encouraged members to visit the TCAFS website frequently for newsletters if not receiving notices when newsletters become available.
 - Pond Management – John Tibbs
 - Reported on future efforts
 - Will investigate new distribution strategies.
 - Will work on pond management committee and manual's history.
 - Publicity – Juan Martinez (presented) and Jvonne Lalla
 - Reported meeting revenue
 - \$156 for t-shirts/caps, etc.
 - \$1,500 for the raffle
 - \$1,500 for guns at the auction
 - \$2,465 for the live auction
 - Raised approximately \$4,700 – expenses (\$1,200) = \$3,500 profit for meeting
 - Student Outreach – Mandy Scott
-

- There were not enough students in attendance on Friday afternoon for a student workshop on resume drafting. Chair Scott provided hand outs to students instead, as many did not arrive until after the workshop was scheduled.
 - 5 students were paired with mentors for a student/mentor lunch on Saturday.
 - Fisheries career packets were available and were distributed to interested students.
 - A jobs board listing current job openings in the fisheries field was provided adjacent to the registration desk.
 - Chair Scott updated members on the status of the Texas Bass Brigades program. Scott recommended the chapter contribute money to help sponsor the program.
- Nominating Committee – John Moczygamba
 - Secured two qualified candidates for each election race – President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer
 - 67 members voted online which was less than last year. A total of 95 (53%) members voted, including online and at the meeting.
 - Tim Bonner newly elected President-Elect and Craig Bonds newly elected Secretary/Treasurer
 - Chair Moczygamba recommends everyone check their email address on the parent society's membership directory webpage. A current email address is essential for an effective online voting program.
- **Old Business**
 - Discussed proposed Bylaws change, splitting the Endowments Committee by forming a Scholarship Committee. This change effectively reduces the work load on both the Secretary/Treasurer and Endowments Committee by providing a separate entity responsible for seeking and managing scholarship donations. Section 7 of the Bylaws would change from "...The Standing Committees should be Awards, Editorial, Endowments, Issues, Nominating, Membership, Pond Management, Publicity/Exhibits, and Student Outreach..." to "...The Standing Committees shall be Awards, Editorial, Endowments, Issues, Nominating, Membership, Pond Management, Publicity/Exhibits, **Scholarships**, and Student Outreach...". Motion made by Dave Terre to adopt changes to Bylaws was seconded by Ken Kurzawski. Motion passed by vote.
 - An AFS Equal Opportunity Section (EOS) fund drive to support minority and female student attendance at the parent society's annual meeting raised \$79 from meeting attendees. The TCAFS donated an additional \$100 to bring the total assistance provided to the EOS Section by the TCAFS to \$179.
- **New Business**
 - Motion was made by Mandy Scott for the TCAFS to provide \$300 in sponsorship funding for the next Texas Bass Brigades camp. Motion seconded by John Findeisen. Motion passed by vote.
 - Presidential skeg passed from Debbie Wade to Art Morris.
- **Meeting adjourned** – 11:40 AM (Art Morris)

Parthenogenesis confirmed in sharks

In 2001, one of the bonnethead sharks, a small common hammerhead shark, in the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska., gave birth to a pup even though the zoo did not have any male bonnetheads. This astonished scientists as placental animals, including this shark, were thought to need genetic material from sperm and egg to produce viable young. The shark pup was born in a tank holding three female bonnetheads caught as young off Florida, a male leopard shark and a stingray. The females had been separated from males of their own species for more than three years. Virgin births, possible in some birds, amphibians, reptiles and bony fishes, are extremely rare. It had never before been confirmed in cartilaginous fish, such as sharks and rays.

The results of a study, by researchers at the zoo, as well as at the School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland. and the Guy Harvey Research Institute, Oceanographic Center, Nova Southeastern University, Florida, appears in the Royal Society journal Biology Letters. Scientists thought one female might have retained sperm after mating with a male in the wild, or reproduced with the leopard shark. Genetic analysis showed the young shark had no male DNA, and was genetically identical to one of the females, thus confirming the existence of parthenogenesis in sharks.



<http://www.journals.royalsoc.ac.uk/content/6k61886t0h7014jm/>

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, www.sdafs.org/tcafs/index.htm, or by contacting Dennis Smith, Dundee State Fish Hatchery, Rt. 1 Box 123A, Electra, TX 76360, (940) 586-1203, Dennis.Smith@tpwd.state.tx.us.

If your e-mail address has changed, please contact us with an update so you can continue to receive the chapter newsletter.

Members are encouraged to make submissions to the Newsletter Editor by mail or e-mail to one of the addresses listed below.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT..... Art Morris
PRESIDENT-ELECT..... Tim Bonner
PAST-PRESIDENT..... Deborah Wade
SECRETARY-TREASURER..... Craig Bonds

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AWARDS..... Greg Conley
CONTINUING EDUCATION..... Bruce Hysmith
EDITORIAL..... Dan Daugherty
ENDOWMENTS..... Dave Terre
HISTORY..... Ray Mathews
INTERNET..... John Taylor
ISSUES..... Bob Edwards
(includes Stocks-at-Risk & Exotic Species Sub-committees)
MEMBERSHIP..... Dennis Smith
NOMINATING..... Charlie Munger
POND MANAGEMENT..... John Tibbs
PUBLICITY / EXHIBITS..... Juan Martinez and Yvonne Lalla
SCHOLARSHIP..... Perry F. Trial
STUDENT OUTREACH..... Mandy Scott

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