

President's message: by Brian Van Zee

Boy time flies when you're having fun! Here it is March already and it seems as though it was just yesterday that we were all in Ft. Worth attending the Golden Alga symposium and TCAFS conference! The conference started off a little "icy" and we had to make some last minute adjustments but everyone was eventually able to make it. In fact we had a little over 200 people register for the conference and all in all I think it went extremely well. Putting together a 4-day conference which included an international symposium as well as the TCAFS annual meeting required a lot of hard work from a lot of really dedicated individuals! Many individuals from both the Golden Alga Task Force as well as the TCAFS were instrumental in planning and conducting this year's conference. They included Gerald Kurten, Tim Birdsong, David Sager, Aaron Barkoh, Loraine Fries, Dan Daugherty, Paul Fleming, Joan Glass, Charlie Munger, Greg Conley, Jack Ralph, Craig Bonds, Meridith Byrd, Luci Cook-Hildreth, Rafe Brock, Tom Hungerford, Chris Cummings, Danny Lewis, Debbie Wade, John Taylor, Janet Wisian, Patsy Berry, Toni Oldfather, Jimmie Green, Tim Bonner, Juan Martinez, Jvonne Lalla, and Mandy Scott. Thanks to all of you for doing such a wonderful job and for making the conference a success!

We need to recognize and give special thanks to all of the presenters for their fabulous oral and poster presentations as well as the individuals who served on the panel discussion. The biggest benefit that we as biologists and researchers get from conferences and annual meetings is the dissemination of new and relevant information as well as networking with colleagues. I would also like to thank Teresa and Gabrielle Conley for once again volunteering their time and assisting with the raffle and auction! Speaking of the auction, we need to thank Mr. Bruce Hysmith for cutting his California vacation short just so he could be back in time to serve as the auctioneer! I'm sure we will get a full update in the Secretary/Treasurers report but we grossed over \$5,700 in this years auction alone. Not to mention all of the additional funds, this should be outlined in the endowments committee report, which Dave Terre and Ray Mathews have rounded up over the past year! It's amazing to see the kind of support that we have, from the membership as well as the public, for the TCAFS and our student scholarship program! A very special thank you goes to the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation for once again donating \$15,000 in support of our fisheries students! That is simply fantastic! We also need to thank Michelle Nations, Larry Hodge and Ray Mathews for taking photos of the conference and for helping us preserve those moments!

I look forward to working with the rest of the Ex-Com this coming year and I encourage all of you to volunteer your time to serve on one of the TCAFS committees. Thanks and please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the TCAFS.



President-elect's message:

by Ken Kurzawski

It is an honor to be elected to serve the TCAFS and its members. Thanks to Mukhtar Farooqi for also running for President-elect and to everyone who took the time to vote. To those of you who didn't vote, why not? Voting over the web is easy. Learning about the officer candidates and making a choice is a great way to have input into the direction and future of the Chapter. Better yet, get involved and run for office yourself!

Brian Van Zee, Tim Birdsong and everyone else who worked on the recently concluded meeting in Fort Worth did a super job. While next year's meeting may not have that same international flavor, I'm sure we'll continue the tradition of productive and enjoyable meetings. I'm definitely hoping we can break the spell of freezing weather we've had the last 2 years. Bruce, do you have at least one more auction in you?

One of my goals as an officer is continue and improve our involvement with the AFS parent society. I have been an officer with the Fisheries Administration Section of the AFS the last 4 years and this experience has left me more convinced than ever of the importance of the AFS to fisheries professionals whether they are with government organizations, universities, or private businesses. I was especially pleased to accept at the Southern Division meeting in New Orleans the new SDAFS Award honoring the Chapter with the highest percent of members registered in the AFS. I'd like for our Chapter to win that award every year! For those who are not members of the parent society, please consider joining as one of the best investments you can make in your career. For students, it's an especially great way (with the reduced student price) to show your commitment to your chosen profession.

I look forward to serving the Chapter and working with you over the next 2 years. If you wish to volunteer or if you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email - ken.kurzawski@tpwd.state.tx.us, or call me at 512-389-4591.

TCAFS 2009 Annual Business Meeting Minutes Fort Worth, Texas – January 31, 2009 by Craig Bonds, Secretary Treasurer

Call to order – 10:50 AM (Tim Bonner)

0

- President's Report (presented by Tim Bonner)
 - Recognized Art Morris for writing nomination for SDAFS Best Chapter Award 0
 - Mentioned scholarship award amount (\$6,000 total) and recognized Dave Terre as leading in securing funds 0
 - Discussed policy on Donation solicitation 0
 - Often get several donation solicitation per annum
 - Developed policy guidelines
 - Will be in procedures manual (revised) will contain new policy for review and vote • .
 - Texas A&M still in process of becoming student sub-unit
 - Debbie Wade guiding process
- Secretary/Treasurer Report (presented by Craig Bonds)
 - 203 registered attendees at the joint conference (39 students; 162 professionals, and 2 spouses) 0
 - Thanked Patsy Berry, Jimmie Green, Toni Oldfather, and Janet Wisian for their assistance with registration 0
 - As of the financial statement dated December 31, 2008 TCAFS total account balances equaled \$103,635.02 \$43,802.08 in checking account; \$59,832.94 in endowment fund
 - 0 Since January 1, 2009, expenses totaled \$34,379.59 and deposited an additional \$13,801.87 into checking account
 - 0 Current (1/31/09) checking account balance totaled \$23,224.36
 - Still need to deposit registration and dues collected at this meeting into the checking account (approximately \$4,500). 0



- Plan on leaving \$12,000 in the checking account and transferring the remainder, in addition to the auction/raffle earnings (\$5,717.50 gross), into the endowment fund. This will equate to an approximate deposit of \$21,500 into the endowment account.
- Updated membership on TCAFS IRS reporting requirements. Last year, AFS Chapters were responsible for reporting their own tax statements. Because the TCAFS received more than \$25,000 in income, we were required to fill out the IRS Form 990-EZ to describe our annual financial picture. This was accomplished last year, but not without quite a bit of effort and some pro-bono assistance from an accountant. The accountant's assistance is especially helpful in making sure we're reporting investment income/losses accurately. The TCAFS EXCOM approved with my recommendation that the TCAFS pay a CPA to prepare our tax statement on an annual basis. I will be coordinating with my successor in implementing this strategy. Tax statements for non-profit organizations are due May 15 each year.
- Closed by expressing gratitude for providing the opportunity to serve for the past two years as your Secretary/Treasurer.

Bass Brigade update

- Mandy Scott introduced Shelby Perry (former Bass Brigade cadet)
- o Shelby gave Power Point presentation on her experience at Bass Brigade
- o Shelby expressed her appreciation for the support the TCAFS provided to the Bass Brigade

Committee Reports

- <u>Awards</u> (presented by Greg Conley)
 - Best Student Oral Presentation
 - Ted Valenti (Baylor)
 - Best Student Poster Presentation
 - Brianne Kiester (TCU)
 - Best Professional Presenter
 - Ray Drenner (TCU)
 - Best Poster
 - Pat Bohannon (TCEQ)
- o <u>Clark Hubbs Research Award</u> (presented by Ray Mathews)
 - Ray Mathews gave a Power Point presentation on Clark Hubbs
 - Recipient Ben Labay (TX State; plaque and \$250 check)
- Editorial Committee (presented by Dan Daugherty)
 - Thanked presenters
 - Acknowledged moderators Ken Kurzawski, Cindy Contreras, and Dan Bennett
 - 08 Proceedings are done, printed, and mailed
 - 09 Proceedings Dan will be working on following this meeting
- o <u>History</u> (presented by Ray Mathews)
 - Power Point tribute to deceased TCAFS members in 2008 (Dennis Pridgen and Clark Hubbs)
- Endowments (presented by Dave Terre)
 - Ray Mathews raised \$775 this year for the Clark Hubbs Research Award
 - Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation contributed \$15,000
 - Various author donations totaled \$600
 - Mike Reed donated \$100 in memory of Dennis Pridgen
 - Two, \$1,000 donations were received in memory of Dennis Pridgen
 - Raised a total of \$23,775
 - Gave account balance (\$59,832.94) and discussed investment fund performance during recent economic downturn
- <u>Membership</u> (presented by Dennis Smith)
 - 2008 181 members (down from last year)
 - Recommended updating membership roster information
- o Internet (presented by John Taylor)
 - Discussed internet host challenges brought about by the SDAFS host migration
- <u>Newsletter</u> (presented by President Tim Bonner)



- End of February deadline for next newsletter report submissions
- <u>Nominating</u> (presented by Charlie Munger)
 - Thanked Fred Janssen and John Taylor for technical assistance with the online voting program
 - 39% of membership voted via the internet; 10% voted by ballot at the conference for a total voter participation of 49%
 - Greg Conley received the most votes for Secretary/Treasurer
 - Ken Kurzawski received the most votes for President-Elect
- o <u>Exhibit/Raffle</u> (presented by Juan Martinez)
 - Thanked those that helped committee
 - Grossed over \$5,730.50; netted \$4,807.52
- <u>Scholarship</u> (presented by Mike Morgan)
 - Recognized John Findeisen's help
 - 66 mailed announcements to university programs
 - 11 applicants for 4 individual awards of \$1,500 each (see recipients below)
 - Michelle Parmley (TX State) undergraduate student
 - Nicholas Bertrand (TX State) undergraduate student
 - Joshuah Perkin (TX State) M.S. graduate student
 - Bridgette Froeschke (TAMUCC) Ph.D. graduate student
- <u>Student Outreach</u> (presented by Mandy Scott)
 - emailed job list to fisheries professors and printed in newsletter
 - Recapped activities at meeting
 - Thanked Dan Bennett for organizing the job board
 - Fisheries student scavenger hunt
 - Updated membership on her participation in 08 Bass Brigade
 - Mandy is new coordinator for next Bass Brigade
 - Needs adult leaders for camp councilors
 - Asked for continued Chapter financial support

New Business

- Outgoing President Tim Bonner encouraged members to get active on committees
- o Outgoing President Tim Bonner passed the presidential skag to new President Brian Van Zee
- President Brian Van Zee presented Past-President Tim Bonner with a Past-President's plaque in honor of Tim's service to TCAFS
- President Brian Van Zee gave a brief summary of the successful conference and thanked Juan Martinez and Jvonne Lalla one more time for their outstanding leadership and effort as co-chairs of the Raffle/Exhibits Committee

- o President Brian Van Zee solicited committee assistance and service from membership
- New Secretary/Treasurer Greg Conley announced Matt Chumchal will be the new Awards Committee Chair
- President Brian Van Zee called the meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Membership report

by Dennis Smith – Membership Committee Chairperson

If this reads like déjà vu all over again, it should. I took my newsletter submission from last February and updated the numbers and a little of the text.

This past year the chapter membership was down a little. We ended the year with 181 members of the chapter, 26 fewer members than we had in 2007. We have 86 paid members thus far for 2009. Last year at this time we only had 60. This number does not include members who pay their dues through the parent society. Approximately half our members pay through the parent society and I haven't received the list from them yet.

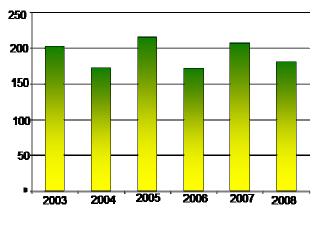


Chapter membership is an annual membership by calendar year and you can join at any point during the year. Please remind your friends and co-workers to renew their membership if they have not done so already. As a reminder, you need to be a current member of the chapter to serve on committees, be eligible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

As always, if you have any questions regarding your membership status or need to update your contact information feel free to email <u>dennis.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us</u> or call (940) 586-1203. You can also find the membership form here: <u>http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/forms/member/membapp.htm</u>

Are you getting email notifications about the newsletters? Did you receive a PIN for online voting? If not, we either don't have a valid email address or you are not on the membership roster. Getting the email notification does not confirm membership as for this newsletter we will likely use both 2008 and 2009 rosters this time.

We're scientists right? We all like graphs? Here is the historical chapter membership for the past six years. Does anyone else see a trend? Looks like 2009 should be a good year!



Nominating Committee Report

by Charlie Munger, Nominating Committee Chairperson

This year, the candidates for president-elect were Mukhtar Farooqi and Ken Kurzawski and candidates for the two year term of secretary/treasurer were Greg Conley and John Findeisen. Your newly elected leaders are Ken Kurzawski as president-elect and Greg Conley as secretary/treasurer. Congratulations to both of you. I know you will do a great job. I'm sure Ken would love to hear suggestions for the location of next years meeting.

Thank you to all the candidates that were willing to run for office. The chapter needs this kind of participation to stay strong and provide quality meetings and information. I encourage all members to consider where they can serve the chapter either as an elected leader or on a committee. If you have an interest, we can find a place for you. Please be thinking about nominations for next year and provide us with your suggestions. It would be great if we could get two nominations from outside TPWD.

As for the election itself, we only had 37% of members vote early online. By the end of voting at the meeting we only had 49% participate in the election. Thank you to all who voted early and in person. I encourage everyone to take time to vote online next year. The way it is set up, it really only take a minute to log in and vote. We owe a big thank you to John Taylor and Fred Janssen for setting up the online voting. They really do a great job and make it easy to vote.



In memoriam Dennis B. Pridgen - 1/9/1959 – 10/19/2008 Natural Resource Specialist V Coastal Fisheries Division Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Dennis graduated from Auburn University in 1987 with a BS in Biological Science with a major in fisheries. In 1990, he and also earned his Masters of Science from Auburn. He began his career as a biologist for the Florida Game and Fish Commission in Ocala, Florida, before accepting a biologist position in 1993 with Texas Parks and Wildlife at the Rockport Marine Laboratory. During his tenure at Rockport, Dennis was a very active

member of the Aransas Bay Ecosystem team who collect long term data for the routine management of the fisheries. He shared his wealth of knowledge and dedication as he worked with and trained many new biologists and technicians. He was actively involved with the sampling during the shrimp fishery bycatch studies conducted in the late 90s. His most recent passion centered around his work with marine seagrasses. He helped design and participate in studies that will help evaluate the effectiveness of the first Texas marine habitat regulation implemented in 2006 regarding the protection of seagrass.

Dennis learned to fish with his grandfathers and to hunt with his father and brothers. He maintained his love of the outdoors throughout his life. He was committed to preservation and restoration through his work and his leisure and published papers in support of his efforts. Except for his time at Auburn and in Ocala, he lived on the gulf coast where he continued learning about this unique ecosystem. He shared his passion for his endeavors with those in his life, delighting in telling all the details of his adventures. His stories will be sorely missed.



TCAFS receives scholarship donations in memory of Dennis Pridgen

by Dave Terre, Endowments Committee Chairperson

Family and friends gave generously to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of former TCAFS Member Dennis Pridgen. Mike Reed a past TCAFS member and friend of Dennis', contacted me shortly after his passing and asked me if he could make a donation in memory of Dennis. Shortly after that, Dennis' brother, Michael, contacted me and told me that Dennis' neighbors (Shelia and David Flores, Cynthia and Rob Magill, Erin Baldwin and Family) had raised funds from the sale of his estate and would be donating those funds to the Chapter. Michael said he also wanted to match their donation in the memory of his brother. I was touched by the generosity of Dennis' family and friends and how they had come to value the Chapters' Student Scholarship Endowment as a way to honor Dennis's legacy and his friendship. Below is letter that was written by Shelia Flores. I wanted to share this with you because it goes to the heart of our chapter, the connections we have with each other, and the purpose of the scholarship funds.

"Dave,



This is for the scholarship fund in memory of Dennis Pridgen. It is from the estate sale that the neighbors had for him. Mike and David, Dennis' brothers, requested this be sent as a memory from the neighbors as listed below.

Shelia and David Flores, Cynthia and Rob Magill, Erin Baldwin and Family

Dennis was very special to everyone especially to my family. He was always there to talk to all my kids and was the only one that I would trust to take my kids hunting besides their father. We've known Dennis for over ten years and spent many days, weekends, and holidays together. He was a terrific person and a great mentor. Dennis succeeded in anything he put his mind to. This was a tragic loss for everyone who Dennis touched their lives. He will be greatly missed. I know this scholarship will go to a few kids that will continue their education and maybe become people like Dennis was. Thank you for putting this money towards young people who believes in the same things as Dennis.

Shelia Flores"

A total of \$2,125.00 was deposited in the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Fund in memory of TCAFS Member and Fisheries Biologist Dennis Pridgen. Dennis made a lasting difference in the lives of many people and in the fisheries profession.

The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation: A Valued Partner in the TCAFS Student Scholarship Program

by Dave Terre, Endowments Committee Chairperson

As announced, at our 2009 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation again donated \$15,000 to support the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program. This was a very significant and generous contribution. Of course, our chapter is very appreciative of this donation. Late last year, TCAFS members Jimmie Green, Mike Brice and I to took the foundation's board members out to lunch at Cace's Seafood Restaurant in Longview. We had a great meeting with them. We discussed the importance of Texas Fisheries and our chapter's strong commitment to provide both educational and financial assistance to Texas Fisheries Students as they pursue their educational and career goals. We clearly share a common vision for the future of Texas fisheries. Both organizations are committed to excellence in education and know the future of our fisheries will depend on young people who will eventually be leading the charge to manage these important resources. Because of the foundation's on-going commitment to the Chapter, we were able to increase the amount of our scholarship awards to \$1,500 each (previously \$1,250) this year. We awarded four scholarships to some very deserving students, thanks to the leadership of Mike Morgan and the members of the Student Scholarship Committee. These students have already written thank you letters to the Foundation and I am greatly appreciative of their efforts. Personal thanks also go to Jimmie Green for all the help she has given me on the Endowments Committee over the past year. 2008 was a great fund-raising year for us at the TCAFS.



Endowments Committee Chairperson Dave Terre and TCAFS Members Jimmie Green and Mike Brice give the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation Board Members a luncheon "thank you" their generous contributions made to the TCAFS Student Scholarship Endowment Program. The presentation was made at Cace's Seafood Restaurant in Longview, Texas.

Auction/Raffle Events 2009

by Ray Mathews, Archivist/Historian



The TCAFS Auction and Raffle has been an event that everyone looks forward to with great anticipation. Bruce Hysmith has now served as the auctioneer for his 21st year. His first time as auctioneer for the annual meeting was at the Kerrville meeting in 1988, and this year he brought his lovely wife, Wanda, to keep him out of trouble.



Greg Conley (Awards Chair) with his wife, Teresa, and daughter (energetic sales representatives for the Chapter's shirts, hats, and raffle tickets).

Craig Bonds (Treasurer) keeping track of Auction item sales.













Lisa Mohaganer winning a prize at the Raffle, with Joan Glass (Sponsorship Committee) who is retiring from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department after many years of service.





Jvonne Lalla and Juan Martinez (Publicity & Exhibits Committee).

Even the Chapter Historian, Ray Mathews, enjoyed winning a fishing pole in the raffle.





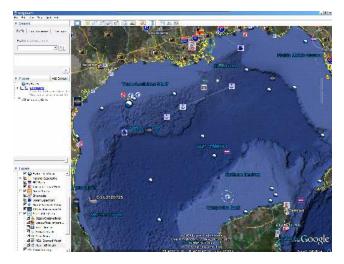
Mystery Question!! – After a few years of dedicated service to the Chapter, the backs of these distinguished gentlemen's heads look very similar. Can you identify who they are?



Flotsam & Jetsam - fish stories from around the world

✤ Explore the ocean with Google Earth

The newest version of Google Earth (5.0) has a feature which will appeal to the adventurer in all of us. You can now explore beneath the surface of the world's oceans form the comfort of your computer! Contained in this new layer, is information from such sources as the National Geographic Society, BBC Earth, Cousteau Ocean World, and ARKive.org. You can find shipwrecks and marine protected areas and you can get observations such as ocean temperature and wind speed from recording stations throughout the world. There are photographs and videos of a vast range of marine species which provides an invaluable resource for educators. There is also information on marine tracking studies, seafood advisories, and watersports. After you install version 5, all you need is a broadband connection and lots of time to explore! No doubt as this software develops, even more information will be made available. Who says there are no free lunches!



⋆ Census of Marine Life

In 2000, researchers from more than 80 nations embarked on a 10-year scientific initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the oceans. The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life will be released in 2010. To date, there have been 18 expeditions in the Antarctic and 14 in the Arctic. One interesting observation is that 235 species of marine life live both in the Arctic and Antarctic although they are separated by 11,000 miles. Conventional wisdom has always held that parts of the Arctic and mid-water areas were devoid of life, so-called "ocean desserts". Data collected in the census has thrown that notion out. In 2000, when the census began, scientists estimated there were between 1 million and 10 million marine species yet to be discovered. Still, 95% of the water in the ocean has been largely unexplored and most of what we know is about near-shore and near-surface areas. Documented marine species probably account for an estimated 20-25% of all species. The census is currently winding up their field work and beginning the process of synthesizing the immense amount of data collected over the last eight years. http://www.coml.org/



You can watch an interview with Professor Jesse Ausubel of Rockefeller University about the project on ABC News at <u>http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=6900415</u>



Megafish

Dr. Zeb Hogan, an assistant research professor at the University of Nevada-Reno poses with a giant stingray, weighing an estimated 550 to 990 pounds (250 to 450 kilograms). The fish was reeled in on January 28, 2009, as part of a National Geographic expedition in Thailand. The stingray's body measured 6.6 feet (2 meters) wide by 6.9 feet (2.1) meters long. The tail was missing. If it had been there, the ray's total length would have been between 14.8 and 16.4 feet (4.5 and 5 meters). The new find gives Hogan hope that the giant stingray, once overfished, may be more abundant than previously thought. And it may confirm the giant stingray as the heavyweight champ of the Megafishes Project. "Honestly, we just don't know how much it weighed. But it's clear that the giant stingray has the potential to be the largest freshwater fish in the world," said Hogan http://www.nationalgeographic.com/field/projects/megafishes.html



🖌 4.8 miles down

In fall 2008, scientists filmed fish (*Pseudoliparis amblystomopsis*) feeding in the Japan Trench off the island's southeast coast at a depth of 4.8 miles. Researchers from the University of Aberdeen's Oceanlab and the University of Tokyo's Ocean Research Institute have been working on a cooperative project since 2007. The Hadeep project studies the Hadal zone, an area of ocean lying between 20,000 and 36,000 feet which consists of very narrow trench systems found mainly around the Pacific rim. These deep areas are explored using specially designed remotely-operated vehicles outfitted with cameras. In 1970, *Abyssobrotula galatheae* were dredged



from the bottom of the Puerto Rico Trench at a depth of over 5 miles but the fish were dead by the time they were brought to the surface. Up until now, the greatest depth that fish were observed alive was thought to be about 4 miles.

Scientists have long postulated that deepwater fish should be relatively inactive to conserve energy but the *Pseudoliparis*, which were about 12-inches long, were observed swimming actively and feeding on crustaceans.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7655358.stm



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 new sletter.

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

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