



President's message:

by Brian Van Zee

Hello fellow Texas Chapter members; I hope everyone's summer is going well thus far. I'm going to take this opportunity to give everyone an idea of some of the things that have been going on in the Chapter lately. As you will see in the president-elect's message, Ken Kurzawski is busy planning next year's annual meeting and I'm sure it's going to be a good one, so start making plans now to attend and to give a presentation. Greg Conley, Secretary/Treasurer, recently finished working with a CPA to have the Chapter's taxes done and those will be filed well in advance of the deadline. Michele Nations, History Committee Chair, has been working with Ray Mathews to take over the Chapter's historical dataset and photos. In fact, she has purchased 2 external hard drives on which to store everything and is cataloging all of it to make it easier to search for particular topics, people, places or events. Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chair, has been working with several other Chapter members in preparation for this year's Bass Brigade which is scheduled to take place July 13-17 at Fort Parker State Park; I'm sure she could use some more help with the Brigade so if you're interested please contact her. Also, the Texas Chapter has been nominated for the Outstanding Large Chapter Award, which is given by the Parent Society, and we will have to wait until the Nashville meeting to see whether we are chosen.

If any Chapter member has something they would like mentioned in the next Newsletter, please either get it to me or to Kevin Storey and we will be sure to include it. I would especially encourage student members or sub-unit to consider providing an update on what has been happening or maybe provide an interesting tid-bit about your research. Thanks and please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the TCAFS. Enjoy the summer!

President-elect's message:

by Ken Kurzawski

Even though summer is just beginning, we are already planning for next year's Chapter meeting. The 2010 meeting will be held from January 21-23 at TPWD's Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. The Center has recently added a conservation center (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/visit/jmorris/>), which will provide an excellent facility for our meeting. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to visit the Center or have not been there recently, you will enjoy touring the facility that combines a Visitor Center, educational programming and a production freshwater hatchery.

The EXCOM has discussed a meeting theme centered on the future of management of Texas' aquatic resources. I think we all recognize that our professions have changed and will continue to change in the coming years. Are we as professionals ready for those changes? Can we recognize those changes or are we in a "business-as-usual"

mode? We are planning to have a portion of the meeting address that theme. If you have any suggestions for that, please let me know. (ken.kurzawski@tpwd.state.tx.us ; 512-389-4591).

Secretary Treasurer's report

by Greg Conley, Secretary Treasurer

The Chapter's cash account balance as of July 6, 2009 is around **\$11,321.08**

The Chapter's Endowment fund Net Portfolio value as of May 29, 2009 is **\$86,972.53**

Student outreach report

by Mandy Scott – Student Outreach Chairperson

Mandy Scott, Greg Cummings and Darin Gossett have been very busy getting ready for Bass Brigade 2009. At the time of this writing, only 42 days to go until camp starts! The committee still needs to raise at least \$4000 to meet the camp's basic budget, so they are holding a raffle to give away three awesome guided fishing trips to three lucky winners. Here are the trips being offered:

- ★ Trip 1: trophy rainbow trout on the Guadalupe River, cabin lodging on the river
- ★ Trip 2: trophy largemouth bass on Lake Amistad, lodging at Ramada Inn, Del Rio
- ★ Trip 3: trophy alligator gar on the Trinity River, \$100 gift card to cover lodging

Tickets are \$25 each or 4/\$100, and can be purchased by contacting Mandy, Greg, Darin, or anyone else on the Bass Brigade committee. The drawing will be held at the banquet on the last day of Bass Brigade camp, on July 17th. For more info, contact Mandy at mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us

There are currently still 3 spots open for Bass Brigade cadets, so if you know any 13- to 17-year-olds who might be interested, please point them to www.texasbrigades.org where they can submit an on-line application.

Hasta la vista, baby!

After 10 years of service to the Chapter as Archivist/Historian, Ray Mathews is stepping down. In truth, he is actually stepping aside to let someone else make a contribution to TCAFS. Throughout his tenure he has served us well and he has probably been one of the biggest contributors to the Chapter newsletter. He leaves some pretty big shoes for his successor to fill. On a personal note, he is leaving his position at the Texas Water Development Board on July 10th and will start work on July 13th at another state agency, the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA). If you are interested in contacting him, his e-mail address is Ocean_reefs@yahoo.com

Thanks Ray!



Announcement:

TCAFS has a new Historian/Archivist - Michele Nations

by Ray Mathews, Former Archivist/Historian, TCAFS

I am pleased to announce my replacement for the position of Archivist/Historian for the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. After serving in that position for 10 years, I have decided to step down and give someone else the opportunity to contribute to this position. I met Michele Nations at the TCAFS annual meeting held January 2009 in Fort Worth which included the Golden Alga Symposium, where she was taking pictures of the meeting highlights, award recipients, and opportunities of interest. Since I have been doing that for the Chapter as a photo-documentation function, I was delighted to find someone else who had that interest. After getting to know about Michele's advanced photographic skills and her interest in documenting the various aspects of the meeting, I started thinking about her as being a good candidate for the position I would step down from. I then learned that she is also the Editor of "Hatchery Happenings" for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and furthermore that she works with her local library to help set up pictures for the "Portal to Texas History." Based on her interest and background, I recommended Michele as my replacement. I am excited that Michele accepted the position with enthusiasm, and has the background, interest, and talents to add a new dimension to the functions of Archivist/Historian of the Chapter. I feel confident that our membership will be pleased with her contributions.



Michele has worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department since March 1987 as a Fish and Wildlife Technician, initially at the Dundee State Fish Hatchery and currently she is a Staff Services Officer for Inland Fisheries Region 2 Hatchery Office located at the Possum Kingdom State Fish Hatchery. As Editor of "Hatchery Happenings," since October 2003, she documents accomplishments of the various hatchery programs from all over the state, and her writing, photographic and graphic skills are very evident in her work (see page one below of her March 2009 edition). She has learned to work with Microsoft Publisher software to set up documents for magazines and newsletters, and Adobe Acrobat Professional software to save 150+ megabyte documents into 2-3 megabyte files, which can be easily emailed or put on a website without taking up too much memory. Her educational background includes a B.S. (1973) and M.S. (1975) degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry from Angelo State. She also has a Secondary Teaching Certification. She is currently seeking an additional M.S. in Psychology and Counseling from Tarleton State University.



She enjoys working with her local library on a project called "Portal to Texas History" <http://texashistory.unt.edu>. This project involves compiling historical documents and making them available on the internet. The "Weaver Collection" on this website is an example of her work. Michele has been working with databases for about 10 years; creating and maintaining some for budgeting/expenditure tracking, reprint cataloging, timesheets, training, inventory, audits, maintenance, etc. in her work for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She is looking forward to creating a database that will track not only photographs with captions, but records that will help document the history of the Chapter.

I have transferred all the Chapter archives and historical documents to Michele, and spent several hours with her going over all the digital files, photo-documentation, newsletter reports, biographies, and history documents that I have created or compiled from other sources and contributors for the

Chapter. I could tell that Michele will take those archives and add a new dimension to them in the form of a database with extensive management that she is skilled at doing. That will be very good for the Chapter, and I encourage you all to work with her, provide as much information as you can to her, and help her to do this job in an exemplary manner. Michele told me that she is looking forward to using the current Chapter website and her skills in computer technology to showcase the pictures and history of the Chapter.

Texas Chapter AFS Scholarship Winners

At the 2009 TCAFS Annual Meeting in Ft. Worth, the Texas Chapter awarded four \$1,500 scholarships to deserving students who exhibited excellence in the following criteria: 1) academic excellence; 2) professional activities; 3) promise of future professional involvement; and 4) significant contribution to the field of fisheries science. This year's recipients are shown below.

From Left to Right:

Scholarship Committee Chair – Mike Morgan

Ph.D. – Bridgette Froeschke (Texas A&M – Corpus Christi)

M.S. – Joshua Perkin (Texas State University)

B.S. – Michelle Parmley (Texas State University)

B.S. – Nicholas Bertrand (Texas State University)



Continuing Education Committee Report

by Aaron Jubar – Continuing Education Chairperson

The next TCAFS annual meeting should be a great one! The facilities at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens are state-of-the-art, and provide an excellent venue for members to expand their knowledge of all things wet. As always, continuing education remains an important goal for our chapter. We take pride in providing informative and stimulating workshops at our meetings, and the upcoming meeting will be no different.

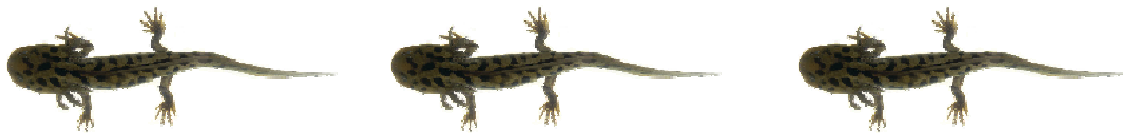
We are still soliciting ideas for workshops you would be interested in attending. If it's pertinent and there's enough support for a topic, we will strive to make it happen! I am also seeking volunteers to serve as members of the Continuing Education Committee. Please contact me with workshop ideas/suggestions, or if you'd like to volunteer your time.

email: Aaron.Jubar@tpwd.state.tx.us phone: 903-593-5077

Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

➤ Holy waterdogs, Batman!

Waterdogs, the larvae of tiger salamanders (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), are commonly used as live bait for freshwater fishing, particularly largemouth bass. They have been used as bait for at least 40 years. In 1968, 2.5 million tiger salamander larvae, worth an estimated \$500,000 were sold as bait in the lower Colorado River area alone. After adjustment for inflation that was equivalent to \$2,766,489 in 2005. Anglers in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico who purchase these amphibians may get more than bargained for! James Collins, assistant director for biological sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF) and biologist Angela Picco of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento, California, found two common pathogens while working on tiger salamanders in the western U.S. bait trade. In 2006, ranaviruses were detected in the tiger salamander bait trade between May and October in Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, but were not found in the few bait shops sampled in Nebraska and Texas. Three of nine shops tested in Arizona in 2007 had animals with a chytrid fungus called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd). Collins said "These diseases have spread with the global trade in amphibians. The commercial amphibian bait trade may be a source of 'pathogen pollution.'" Results of the research show that 26 to 73 percent of anglers used tiger salamanders as bait; 26 to 67 percent of anglers released tiger salamanders bought as bait into fishing waters; and four percent of bait shops put salamanders back in the wild after the waterdogs were housed with infected animals. Collins recommended establishing a quarantine program to help prevent the introduction of non-native pathogens into threatened, susceptible populations. "Random monitoring of pathogen movement through the bait trade may help limit the spread of amphibian diseases."



➤ Where I come from, we call that bait!

An article printed in "Emerging Infectious Diseases" has tracked the movement of tapeworm infections for 20 years as reports migrated from rural fishing villages in Japan to urban centers around the world, including France, Switzerland, and the United States. The study which was released in June 2009, showed salmon tapeworm infections tripled from an average of 0.32 cases per 100,000 people each year in Kyoto, Japan to at least 1 case in 100,000 people in 2008. This incidence has increased as more people adopt sushi and undercooked fish diets. Large tuna varieties such as blue fin, yellow fin and big eye are usually parasite-free. Trout, cod and wild small

salmon such as sockeye and coho (not king salmon) are prone to parasites. According to U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations, all fish meant to be served as sushi must be frozen for a specified period of time (usually a week) to kill lurking parasites. Problems arise when people try to serve raw fish at home without buying “sushi grade” fish, or poor quality of preparation in restaurants. If you want to break the cycle, cook the fish!



➤ **In acid water, size does matter**

David M. Checkley, a biological oceanographer of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, incubated the eggs of white sea bass in seawater and measured the otoliths when the fish were seven to eight days old. He and his colleagues knew that increasing carbon dioxide in the oceans — absorbed from the atmosphere — is making the sea more acidic, which can dissolve and weaken shells. They wondered if it also would reduce the size of the otoliths. In the first test, the water had more than six times the current amount of carbon dioxide, and the little fish grew otoliths 15 percent to 17 percent larger than normal. He was surprised so repeated the experiment and got the same results. Next he reduced the carbon dioxide in the water to about 3.5 times the current level — a concentration that could occur by the year 2100 at the rate CO₂ is being added to the atmosphere and then the sea. Those fish had otoliths 7 percent to 9 percent larger than fish raised in seawater with current gas concentrations.

Researchers now will try and figure out how the added carbon dioxide in the water causes the otoliths to enlarge, whether this is happening to other types of fish, and whether the long-term effect will be good or bad.

"If fish can do just fine or better with larger otoliths, then there's no great concern. But fish have evolved to have their bodies the way they are. The assumption is that if you tweak them in a certain way it's going to change the dynamics of how the otolith helps the fish stay upright, navigate and survive," Checkley said.

➤ **Loss of coastal seagrass habitat accelerating globally**

Seagrass beds have a profound influence on the physical, chemical, and biological environments of coastal areas. This unique group of submerged flowering plants provides critical habitat for aquatic life, alters water flow and helps mitigate the impact of nutrient and sediment pollution. A recent article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences shows annual global loss of seagrass beds has increased from less than 1 percent per year before 1940 to 7 percent since 1990. Using 1,800 observations from 215 studies of seagrass habitats dating back to 1879, researchers concluded that seagrasses are disappearing at rates comparable to coral reefs and tropical rainforests. Since the earliest observations, 29 percent of seagrass ecosystems have disappeared entirely and 58 percent of the world's seagrass meadows are currently declining. The primary causes for the declines are direct impacts from coastal development and dredging activities and indirect impacts of declining water quality.

"A recurring case of 'coastal syndrome' is causing the loss of seagrasses worldwide," said co-author Dr. William Dennison of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "The combination of growing urban centers, artificially hardened shorelines and declining natural resources has pushed coastal ecosystems out of balance. Globally, we lose a seagrass meadow the size of a soccer field every thirty minutes." Further Dr. Robert Orth of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science of the College of William and Mary cautioned "With the loss of each meadow, we also lose the ecosystem services they provide to the fish and shellfish relying on these areas for nursery habitat. The consequences of continuing losses also



extend far beyond the areas where seagrasses grow, as they export energy in the form of biomass and animals to other ecosystems including marshes and coral reefs."

"With 45 percent of the world's population living on the 5 percent of land adjacent to the coast, pressures on remaining coastal seagrass meadows are extremely intense," said co-author Dr. Tim Carruthers of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. "As more and more people move to coastal areas, conditions only get tougher for seagrass meadows that remain."

➤ **The water's great, come on in!**

The protozoan *Cryptosporidium*, commonly called crypto, is a chlorine-resistant parasite that is showing up more frequently in swimming pools. It was not identified until 1976, but it causes one of the most common waterborne diseases, Cryptosporidiosis, and is found worldwide. The parasite is transmitted by environmentally hardy cysts (oocysts) that, once ingested, exist in the small intestine and result in an infection of intestinal epithelial tissue. It is spread through the fecal-oral route, often through contaminated water. Pools, ponds and other bodies of water can host crypto, which when ingested can cause illness for up to two weeks. Symptoms can include bouts of diarrhea, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting and low-grade fevers.

Now that we are becoming aware of this problem, personal hygiene and common sense can limit its spread. Inconsiderate behaviors like swimming when you have diarrhea, not washing your hands after changing diapers or going to the bathroom or letting children swim in pools with dirty encourage the spread of cryptosporidiosis. This summer be clean and be safe in the pool!

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryptosporidiosis>



It's your Chapter, be involved!

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions in his sphere."

Theodore Roosevelt

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.

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