



## President's message

by Ken Kurzawski

If you missed this year's annual meeting in Athens, you missed an excellent meeting. Not surprisingly, Texas bucked the recent trend of lowered attendance that has recently plagued many professional meetings. Our turnout was great with 147 persons registered.

Starting with Thursday's continuing education classes and social through Friday's plenary session and the presentations that followed, attendees were treated to an informative, diverse, and enjoyable meeting. Thanks to everyone who helped make the meeting a success. I'm especially grateful to the invited speakers, sponsors and exhibitors, and all who volunteered in some capacity including members led by our officers and committee members, volunteers from TPWD and Texas State University, and member's families! The Hart-Morris Conservation Center at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center was a great venue for our meeting. The TFFC staff were great hosts especially Jim Booker who assisted with many of the pre-meeting details and was on-hand to work out any kinks.



Representation at the meeting from the various sectors of the fisheries profession in Texas was the most diverse that I can recall for a stand-alone chapter meeting. I was especially impressed with the turnout from universities, the private sector, and from our marine colleagues. One of my goals as president is to continue that trend. It's never too early to start thinking about attending or presenting at next year's meeting. Better yet, get involved with the TCAFS by volunteering for a committee!

As I noted in my brief remarks at the meeting, your involvement in the Texas Chapter and our parent society is one of the best investments you can make in your career as a fisheries or aquatic resource professional. Those of us that are in positions to influence budgets for our work groups, need to continue to support funding for travel to professional meetings. That is one of the best investments we can make in our employees and for the success of our organizations.

I look forward to serving as your president and to working with our dedicated EXCOM including President-elect Craig Bonds. Let us know how we are doing! [ken.kurzawski@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:ken.kurzawski@tpwd.state.tx.us); 512-389-4591

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## President-elect's message:

*by Craig Bonds*

I would like to thank TCAFS members who exercised their right to vote in the previous Chapter election. Charlie Munger also deserves our appreciation for his role in the candidate nomination and election facilitation processes. Ken Kurzawski and his support team put on an outstanding and well-attended annual meeting at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens this past January. We certainly have a high standard to uphold in that department.

Speaking of annual meetings, I've been working on the selection process for a host location for next year's meeting. Several potential locations are currently being investigated. The only hint I'll give at this time is our next destination will likely be a location further south since our previous two meetings were held in North Texas.

I am honored to have another opportunity to serve the Chapter and its members. I encourage members to seek service opportunities within the Chapter. It does not have to be in a leadership role. Volunteering to participate on a committee is an excellent way to give back to an organization that provides such an excellent forum for information exchange, recognition for outstanding achievement, and student support. Your service will also benefit you professionally and personally in real and meaningful ways. I also want to encourage each Chapter member to pursue membership and professional certification through the AFS parent society.

I look forward to serving the Chapter over the next two years. If you wish to volunteer or if you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email ([craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us)) or call me at 903-566-1615, extension 202.

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## Continuing Education Committee report

*by Aaron Jubar, Continuing Education chair*

The TCAFS annual meeting at TFFC in Athens featured two continuing education seminars. Larry Hodge, TPWD Information Specialist, hosted a short course entitled "Basics of Digital Photography". The seminar included an indoor presentation as well as some hands-on outdoor instruction. Participants were able to take advantage of the mild weather to practice some of the photography techniques they learned in the course. We also offered an additional continuing education course entitled "Benefits of AFS Certification". Special thanks to Craig Bonds for his help in planning and co-hosting this course with me.

It's not too early to start planning our continuing education course(s) for next year's TCAFS meeting. We are constantly soliciting ideas for workshops our membership is 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.

e-mail: [aaron.jubar@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:aaron.jubar@tpwd.state.tx.us) , phone: 903-593-5077

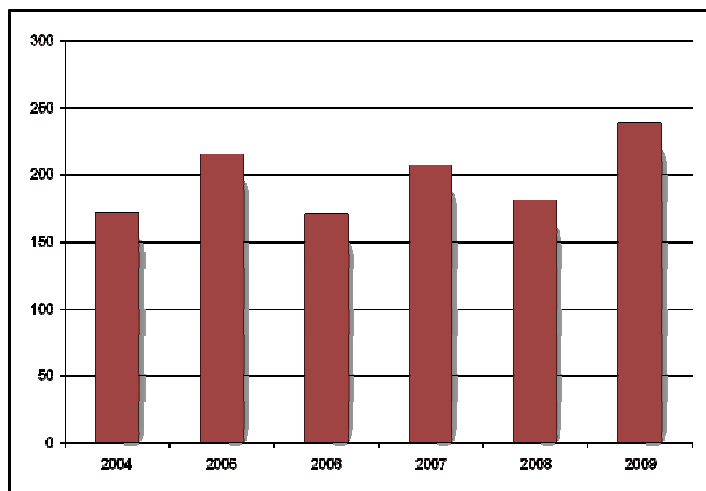


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## Membership report

*Dennis Smith, Membership Committee Chairperson*

Last year was a record-setting year for membership. We ended the year with a total of 239 members which was the most since I have been membership chair and likely the most ever. It was an increase of 58 members over the 2008 total. As you can see from the graph below our membership tends to fluctuate year to year with the up years followed by down years. Don't let this year be a down year. Let's break the cycle! Renew your chapter membership now if you haven't already.



As always, if you have any questions regarding your membership status or need to update your contact information feel free to email [dennis.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:dennis.smith@tpwd.state.tx.us) or call (940) 586-1203. You can also find the membership form here:

<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/forms/member/membapp.htm>

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 2009 and 2010 rosters this time.

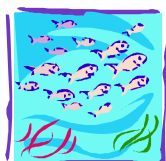
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## Student Outreach report

*Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson*

We had good participation by students at this year's annual conference in Athens. Overall, 31 students attended the meeting and enjoyed a student-professional mixer on the first evening, and 9 participated in the Student-Mentor Lunch on Friday. Many also gave oral and poster presentations. The Student Outreach Committee had a career resource table set up in the vendor area which included a Jobs Board, career guidance brochures, and information about Bass Brigade, the conservation leadership program for high school youth who are interested in aquatic life. Two continuing education sessions were offered that appealed to students, as well: Outdoor Photography, and the Benefits of AFS Professional Certification.

Several TX Chapter members volunteered their time to Bass Brigade in July 2009, helping 21 high school youth to cultivate their interest in the outdoors into a passion for conservation. The TX Chapter of AFS donated \$300 towards Bass Brigade in 2008 and 2009, and has already pledged another \$300 for the 2010 camp. Thank you! Check out the new Brigades website at [www.texasbrigades.org](http://www.texasbrigades.org). Bass Brigade will be held July 12-16, 2010 at a new location—Warren Ranch Lodge near Coleman, TX. If you are interested in helping at camp or with other aspects of Student Outreach, I would love to tell you more. Contact me at [mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us) or 325-651-5556.



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## Awards Committee report

by Matt Chumchal, Awards Committee Chairperson

The presentations at the 2010 annual in Athens meeting were excellent. Special thanks to all the members that served as judges. This year's presentation award winners included:

**Best Professional Presentation:** Michael Tobler (Texas A&M University), "Ecology and evolution of the Amazon molly, *Poecilia formosa*."

**Best Professional Poster:** Mike Stahl (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), "A preliminary assessment of oyster reef and shoreline habitat use by estuarine finfish in East Matagorda Bay and Galveston Bay, Texas."

**Best Student Presentation:** Ben Labay (Texas State University), "Spatial and temporal fish community assessment on major subbasins of the lower Brazos River watershed."

**Best Student Poster:** Ben Labay (Texas State University), "Preliminary species distribution models for freshwater fish species of Texas."

## Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards for 2009

- **Administration** - Mike Ray (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

Mike Ray has worked for TPWD for over 20 years. As an administrator for Coastal Fisheries, he has worked with all five Gulf States to manage common fisheries in state marine water and with the National Marine Fisheries Service to manage fisheries in state and federal waters. He works with teams of scientists and resource managers to operate effective sea turtle conservation efforts in Texas and Mexico. Because of this coordination between the two countries, the Kemp's Ridley may be downlisted from "endangered" to "threatened."



- **Culture** – Hugh Glenewinkel (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)



Hugh Glenewinkel worked his way up through the ranks from a Fish Hatchery Technician to Hatchery Biologist in his 15+ years of service to Texas Parks and Wildlife's Inland Fisheries Division. An AE Wood facility production record was set by Hugh and his team in 2007 for the production of FLMB fingerling, nearly 5,000,000 fish. Included in a long list of Hugh's attributes are his dedication and passion for the culture of game fish for the people of Texas to enjoy.

- **Management** – Richard Ott (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

Richard Ott is a dedicated TPWD employee who cares deeply about his responsibility as an advocate for natural resources under his stewardship. Richard is highly dependable when assigned or, just as often, volunteers for a task. Richard has a sharp analytical mind, making him a valuable asset on special projects or working committees. Richard has been extremely productive recently leading, serving, or assisting on a number of TPWD projects, including gaining support for a stakeholder-driven Lake Tyler Hydrilla Management Plan, the Habitat Sampling Committee's procedures revision, the Crappie Sampling Committee's research and trap netting procedure revisions, trophy blue catfish regulation evaluation, Tyler Water Utilities advanced-size channel catfish rearing, Operation World Record largemouth bass sampling, striped bass broodfish procurement, Toyota Texas Bass Classic set-up and interpretive display, Reservoir Fish Habitat Science and Data Committee survey responses, largemouth bass procurement for mercury analyses, and the Amistad bass fizzing study.



- **Research** - Aaron Barkoh (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)



As research coordinator of Texas Parks and Wildlife Departments Inland Fish Hatcheries, Dr. Aaron Barkoh has overseen the development of a culture of science-based improvement in fish production programs that has resulted in a national reputation of excellence by TPWD Inland Fisheries. He played a pivotal role in the successful coordination and publication of last year's International Golden Alga symposium and has participated in and served as an advisor on numerous research projects including topics such as golden alga mitigation, catfish feeding, striped bass production techniques, and pond management. Under his guidance and mentorship TPWD fish culture programs have evolved from art towards science-based practices leading to more predictable fish production for managing Texas fisheries.

- **Special Recognition** – Mandy Scott (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

Mandy was instrumental in restarting the Texas Bass Brigade program in 2008, and has since been heavily invested in making the program a success. She currently serves as the Camp Coordinator and responsible for all facets of the annual, week-long camp, including recruiting cadets, instructors, and staff, developing curriculum, organizing staff and speakers, raising funds, and much more. Under Mandy's direction and leadership, Bass Brigades is a fun, educational experience for high school youth and serves a critical role in educating the public about aquatic resources, Texas fishes, and fishing. (Unfortunately Mandy was not able to attend the awards presentation so we did not get a photograph of her. There is something in the fine print about "Must be present to have photograph taken for submission to the Chapter newsletter")

- **Student** – Ben Labay (Texas State University)

As a graduate student within the MS-Aquatic Resources Program at Texas State University, Ben Labay has done an outstanding job, designing, planning, and conducting his thesis project within the Brazos River drainage. Specific objectives of his thesis were to test relationships among fish assemblages, abiotic factors, and land use parameters among 33 lower Brazos River subdrainages. Information gained from his study will be used to predict how instream flow modifications (ie., impoundments, dewatering) and land use changes will affect biotic diversity within the drainage. In addition, Ben has demonstrated initiative, academic curiosity, and a superb work ethic and has maintained stellar grades, assisted several graduate students with their field work, served as Treasurer for the Texas State University Aquatic Biology Society, and taught Ichthyology laboratory at Texas State University.



## 2010 Student Scholarship award winners



Dave Terre (left), Endowments Committee Chairman, and Mike Morgan (right), Scholarship Committee Chairman, along with Student Scholarship award winners (center left to right) - Jake Wimberly - B.S., Laura Bivins - M.S., and Gabriella Ahmadiya – PhD at the 2010 meeting in Athens.



At left, Matt Chumchal, Awards Chairman, presents Ray Drenner with the Best Professional Oral Presentation Award for the presentation titled “Coal-fired power plants and spatial variation in mercury contamination of largemouth bass in Texas” which was presented at the January 2009 meeting in Fort Worth.



At right, Seiji Miyazono receives the Clark Hubbs Scholarship Award along with a \$500 check from Ray Mathews, Clark Hubbs Research Award Committee Chairman.



AMERICAN  
FISHERIES  
SOCIETY

## Fish Fest 2010

Come join us at Veteran's Park in College Station for fresh fish and plenty of excitement.

**Saturday, March 27, 2010**

**4:00 – 6:00**

If you have any questions or need tickets please contact James Adcock at [jladcock88@gmail.com](mailto:jladcock88@gmail.com) or 254-366-0203 or any other officer of The Texas A&M Chapter of The American Fisheries Society.

Tickets are \$10 for Students and \$12 for Adults  
Tickets will be on sale in Nagle Hall from March 8-12 and March 22-26.

Tickets will also be available at the event but may be limited.

<http://stuorg-sites.tamu.edu/~tamuafs/>

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# TCAFS 2010 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Athens, Texas – January 21-23, 2010

by Greg Conley, Secretary Treasurer

## **CALL TO ORDER** - January 23, 2010

1. Brian Van Zee called the business meeting to order at 1120 hours.
2. Last year's meeting minutes - Charlie Munger made motion to approve, seconded by John Taylor. Minutes approved.
3. TCAFS received the largest chapter award.
4. Dave Terre received the Outstanding Achievements Award
5. Craig Bonds et. al. received the best paper for last year's SDAFS meeting in Louisiana.
6. Fred Janssen, TCAFS member, is the new incoming SDAFS president. Fred addressed membership on upcoming SDAFS meeting issues.
7. Thanks to John Taylor and Jimmy White for helping with the presentations.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT**

- Total registration for meeting = 147 (112 professional, 31 students, 4 exhibitors)
- Raffle/auction brought in little over \$3,200
- Total registration and member dues for the meeting brought in \$11,762.
- At the time of the meeting there was a balance of \$22,508.78 in the checking account. After meeting expenses were met, and all monies were deposited to the account, the balance was \$30,387.74. The chapter will put \$1,000 back into the Clark Hubbs scholarship fund and will be able to deposit a little over \$17,000 to the Endowments account.
- We will leave \$1,200 in the account for next year's meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Continuing Education (Aaron Jubar)**

- There were two courses at this year's meeting in Athens
  1. Digital photography (33 attendees)
  2. AFS certification (17 attendees)
- Two courses will try to be offered each year but will not be held concurrently. The committee will be looking for topics for next year's meeting so contact Aaron Jubar with ideas.
- The committee is encouraging more Chapter members to get their AFS certification.

### **Editorial (Dan Daugherty)**

1. There were a great diversity of papers presented this year from coastal fisheries, inland fisheries, Universities and the private sector.
2. Thanks go to the moderators Preston Bean and Chris Bodine.
3. Last year's proceedings has been sent to all Libraries
4. Manuscript details will be included in the proceedings for those who want them to be.

### **Awards (Matt Chumchal)**

1. Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards for 2009:
  - Student – Ben Labay
  - Special Recognition – Mandy Scott
  - Management – Richard Ott
  - Administration – Mike Ray
  - Research – Aaron Barkoh
  - Culture – Hugh Glenewinkel



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2. Best Presentations (oral and poster) at the 2010 meeting
    - Best Professional Presentation – Michael Tobler – “Ecology and evolution of the Amazon molly.”
    - Best Professional Poster – W. Balboa, B. Bowling, and M. Stahl\* - “A preliminary assessment of oyster reef and shoreline habitat use by estuarine finfish in East Matagorda Bay and Galveston Bay, Texas.”
    - Best Student Presentation – Ben Labay – “Spatial and temporal fish community assessment on major subbasins of the lower Brazos River watershed.”
    - Best Student Poster - Ben Labay – “Preliminary species distribution models for freshwater fish species of Texas.”
  3. Matt would like to see more nominations for the 2010 fisheries worker of the year awards.

### **Endowments (*Dave Terre*)**

The TCAFS started the year with a balance of \$59,832 in our Scholarship Endowment Account. Income during 2009 was \$28,262 (\$15,000 – Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation; \$2,025 – Memorials to Dennis Pridgen; \$500 Donation by Gerald Kurten et. al; \$10,737-Proceeds from the 2009 International Golden Algae Conference and TCAFS Raffle). Debits during 2009 were \$6,000 (four student scholarships awarded @ \$1,500 each). The total amount invested in the endowment was \$22,262. The net interest on our investments during 2009 was \$18,244 giving us an ending balance of \$100,333.

For 2010, we received an additional \$15,000 donation from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation. This amount (less \$4,500 paid to our scholarship winners in Athens) and proceeds from our 2010 meeting auction and raffle (see Secretary/Treasurer report)) will be deposited in the endowment account as soon as possible.

During 2010, the Endowments committee will be searching for potential contributors to the Clark Hubbs Student Research Grant Program. Members should contact Dave Terre with any interested foundations or individual contributors. The committee will also continue to nurture the relationships we have with current Student Scholarship Program contributors and keep those lines of communication open.

The Endowments Committee also wishes to expand memorial-type contributions, such as those given last year in memory of past TCAFS member Dennis Pridgen. We ask that all members help promote and encourage these types of contributions to the TCAFS. Tax-exempt donations can be made to honor TCAFS members, their legacy, their families, anglers, scientists, researchers, students, fishing industry folks, or anyone interested in benefiting Texas fisheries students, our fisheries profession, the future of fishing, the good stewardship of our aquatic resources, or the TCAFS organization as a whole. Please contact Dave Terre (512-467-4962) directly with any questions or for assistance.

The Endowment Committee recognized two key individuals (Jimmie and Kirk Green) for their continued help with TCAFS Endowment Committee activities and for their communications with the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation. The committee also recognized Mike Morgan (Chairperson), and the entire Student Scholarship Selection Committee, for all their outstanding work over the past year.

### **History (*Michele Nations*)**

- Ray Matthews received his 25 year pin from parent society.
- 3 deaths of past Chapter members occurred in 2009.
- Michele’s goal is to collect memories from photos at each event/meeting to build relationships, while working towards the needs of tomorrow.
- Trying to get a Facebook link on the Chapter’s homepage for AFS Parent Society, SDAFS, and USFWS.
- Would like to set up a student research section on the Chapter’s homepage to keep members aware of the current ongoing research from student members.
- Working on a photo sharing site for members.

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- Michele is working on cataloguing/indexing past and present photos for quick access by members.
  - Has idea to create an autobiography form to put TCAFS member accomplishments to be available for distribution from database.
  - Plans to develop the Historian database so any future Chapter Historians can still access it.

#### **Internet (*John Taylor & Janet Wisian*)**

- Thanked Fred Janssen for providing help on TCAFS website.
- Requesting others help if anyone is interested to get involved.

#### **Issues (*Gary Garrett*)**

- No report.
- Need new committee chairperson.

#### **Membership (*Dennis Smith*)**

- 238 members in 2009

#### **Newsletter (*Kevin Storey*)**

- Will send out the 2010 spring issue of the Chapter newsletter in March.

#### **Nominating (*Charlie Munger*)**

- Thanks go to John Taylor and Fred Janssen for helping with the online voting this year.
- For 2010 meeting
  - 31% voted online
  - 41% of members voted
- New President Elect = Craig Bonds
- Need new committee chair.

#### **Pond Management (*John Tibbs*)**

- John is looking for new committee members to help implement new ideas he has for the committee.

#### **Publicity/Exhibits (*Dan Bennett & Paul Fleming*)**

- Will get thank you letters out to all donors and sponsors.
- 2010 raffle/auction made about \$3200 in profits.
- Thanks to Niki Ragan for her help with the committee.

#### **Scholarship (*Mike Morgan*)**

##### Student Scholarship Awards

- Mailed scholarship announcements to 80 University point of contacts and placed the announcement on the TCAFS homepage.
- Received 11 applications (B.S – 1, M.S. – 6, PhD – 4)
- Gave out 3 awards at 2010 meeting (B.S. - Jake Wimberly, M.S. - Laura Bivins, PhD – Gabriella Ahmadia).

##### Clark Hubbs Scholarship Award (Ray Matthews)

- Was seeking funds from Clark Hubbs foundation but failed.
- Need more applicants for this award, only get 2-3 per year.
- Awarded one student in 2010 for \$500 this year to Seiji Miyazono.

#### **Student Outreach (*Mandy Scott*)**

- 31 students attended the 2010 meeting in Athens.

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- 9 students attended the student/mentor lunch.
  - There was a career resource table set up in the exhibit area.
  - Thanks to TCAFS for their \$300 sponsorship to Bass Brigades.
  - The next Bass Brigade will be held on July 12-16, 2010 at a ranch in Coleman County.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Dan Daugherty asked the membership if the annual proceedings still needed to be printed each year to send to the various Libraries or should they just be provided in electronic format. The cost of printing every year is about \$200.
  - Motion was made by Deborah to suspend printing and begin providing electronic format to save the Chapter the printing cost. This motion was seconded by Dan Daugherty. The question was raised of “What benefits do Libraries get from having a hard copy (archived copy)?” John Taylor then amended the motion to research the issue further before making the final decision. So Dan will ask the Libraries if they really wanted a hard copy and if so, would they pay for it. A question was asked “Does the Chapter even need to have a hard copy?” The motion was then amended by Charlie Munger to research the issue and then just let the ExCom make the final decision to cease printing hard copies. This amended motion was seconded by Fred Janssen.
  - The motion was tabled until the next business meeting.
2. Should TCAFS provide Chapter members a stipend to attend the Annual SDAFS meetings?
  - Discussion was made to provide monetary support to Fred Janssen to get to this year’s SDAFS meeting in North Carolina since he will be the new SDAFS President. Motion was made by Bobby Farquhar to pay for Fred’s roundtrip airfare. This motion was seconded by John Findeisen. This motion was amended to include “transportation funding” to and from the meeting. The motion was passed that the Chapter provide transportation funding for Fred Janssen to travel to the SDAFS meeting in North Carolina.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Incoming President
  - Ken Kurzawski was installed as the new President and he was presented with the “scag” and also a copy of “Robert’s Rules for Dummies”.
  - Ken thanked all TFFC staff and everyone else for a great meeting.
  - Ken would like to see at least the same level of support from all entities that attended the meeting.
  - Ken is going to work on getting the Chapter By-Laws on the Chapter website.
2. John Taylor (secretary/treasurer of Striped bass committee) – requesting funds to publish manual. John will send a written request to the ExCom.
3. Aaron Barkoh said they would have a Golden Alga publication out soon.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

Made by Gary Garrett and seconded by Danny Lewis.



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## Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

### ➤ Teach a fish a few tricks

So you think fish are cold-blooded and not too smart? Well think again! If you've got \$29.99 (plus shipping) and some time on your hands, you can purchase the R2 Fish School, a training system that includes an instructional DVD, a training platform, over 20 compatible training accessories, a feeding wand, an instructional manual, and a compact base for fish bowls and small tanks. Oh you'll also need a fish! The system was developed by Dr. Dean Pomerleau and his son Kyle of Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, using common techniques of positive reinforcement and shaping. Their calico fancy goldfish, Albert, was listed in the 2007 Guinness World Records as the "Fish with largest repertoire of tricks". Among his 6 tricks are playing soccer and performing limbo! This is the same fish who starred in an Axe Deodorant ad in the "Get a girlfriend" series that was a finalist in the "Best TV Commercial" at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival in France. (

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze-2Z7Wh1nQ>)



Don't think this is a competitive field? Enter Comet, a 2-year old goldfish who is on track to become the smartest fish in the world. He learned all of Albert's tricks and then some; 9 in all! He can play basketball, soccer, and football. He can swim through a hoop, a tunnel, a chimney, under a limbo pole and through a slalom course. Last but not least, he can fetch a hoop. Don't believe it? Well see for yourself on YouTube at:

[http://wbx.me/l/?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D15Xi-IUKj7A%26feature%3Dyoutube\\_gdata](http://wbx.me/l/?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D15Xi-IUKj7A%26feature%3Dyoutube_gdata)

Need more information? Visit the following websites <http://www.fish-school.com/> and <http://www.r2fishschool.com/>. What's next, Summer Olympics for fish?

### ➤ Giant tuna fetches \$177,000 at Japan fish auction

Maybe Subway's Daily deal on Friday, Tuna salad, appeals to you but it's bound to be made with affordable tuna. What's that you ask? Well, all I can tell you is it was not bought at a Japanese auction for sushi!

In early January 2010, the owners of two Japanese sushi restaurants and one Hong Kong-based sushi establishment paid 16.3 million yen (\$177,000) for a 513 pound bluefin tuna at the world's largest wholesale fish market. The monster fish was caught off the north coast of Japan and it was among 570 put up for auction. About 40% of the fish that were auctioned off were imported from countries such as Indonesia and Mexico.

That's a lot of money for one fish, but in 2001 a 440-pounder sold for \$220,000 at the same Tsukiji market in Tokyo!

Japanese have a huge appetite for seafood and they consume 80% of the Atlantic and Pacific Bluefin tunas caught. These two species are the most sought by sushi lovers. Consumption in Japan has recently declined because of their worst recession since World War II. At the same time there are calls for tighter fishing regulations as tuna stocks continue to decline. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas in November 2009, slashed the quota for the 2010 catch by about one-third to 13,500 tons (12,250 metric tons).



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## 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](http://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](mailto: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*.....Ken Kurzawski  
*PRESIDENT-ELECT* .....Craig Bonds  
*PAST-PRESIDENT* .....Brian Van Zee  
*SECRETARY-TREASURER*.....Greg Conley

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

*AWARDS* .....Matt Chumchal  
*CONTINUING EDUCATION* .....Aaron Jubar  
*EDITORIAL* .....Dan Daugherty  
*ENDOWMENTS* .....Dave Terre  
*HISTORY* .....Michele Nations  
*INTERNET* .....John Taylor / Janet Wisian  
*ISSUES* .....Robert Edwards  
(includes Stocks-at-Risk & Exotic Species Sub-committees)  
*MEMBERSHIP* .....Dennis Smith  
*NOMINATING* .....Charlie Munger  
*POND MANAGEMENT*.....John Tibbs  
*PUBLICITY / EXHIBITS*.....Dan Bennett and Paul Fleming  
*SCHOLARSHIP* .....Mike Morgan  
*STUDENT OUTREACH*.....Mandy Scott

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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