



President's message

by Craig Bonds

I hope this newsletter greets our family of fisheries professionals in both good health and spirit. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some recent progress related to Chapter business. The process of updating the TCAFS Procedural Handbook and bylaws is advancing on pace to complete an initial round of edits by early summer. The entire TCAFS EXCOM and Committee leadership will have provided their initial comments by the end of May. Our goal is to not only update these useful Chapter documents, but also convert the Procedural Handbook into a web-based structure that will facilitate more frequent and easier updating and accessibility by members.

Since announcing previous turnover of leadership in two standing committees (Continuing Ed Chair and Publicity/Exhibits Co-Chair) in our previous newsletter, I've received notice from Dennis Smith that after 10 years of service as the Membership Committee Chair, he is interested in giving someone else the opportunity to serve. This committee performs an important role, maintaining and processing membership lists and actively recruiting new members. Serving the Chapter is an honor and a privilege. I encourage someone wanting to invest in both their professional organization and their own personal growth to take the initiative and volunteer to lead this committee. I guarantee you will not regret serving. To borrow a quote from former President Theodore Roosevelt, "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." Please contact me if you feel led to fill this need (903-566-1615 X 202; craig.bonds@tpwd.state.tx.us).

Our April TCAFS EXCOM meeting convened in Tyler, but remote attendees were able to participate through a group Skype video conference session. It is my goal to enable easier and more efficient participation from a geographically-dispersed group by employing technology. Danny Lewis used his tech skills to help make this happen. We experienced a few kinks with video projection, microphone placement, and smart phones, but nothing to inhibit active participation and information exchange. Lessons learned were correctable and will help us make this an even better experience next time. Don't let geography inhibit your participation!

Our President-Elect, George Guillen, is actively planning our next annual meeting. He has proposed some exciting arrangements and topics that will surely interest and engage our members. If you haven't read the previous newsletter, you may not be aware that podcasts of plenary and technical presentations from the 2011 Annual Meeting are available for viewing online <http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/11meet/TCAFS2011/index.htm>

Take care,

Craig Bonds



You can now follow the Texas Chapter on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/TCAFS>

President-elect's message

by George Guillen

Fellow TCAFS members and colleagues, I hope you are enjoying your summer. I don't know how well the fish and other aquatic organisms are doing though. I have seen a lot of dry stream beds, crowded fish in small pools and fish skeletons this summer while conducting surveys. In fact, we have had to cancel some because of lack of water. I can only imagine most freshwater stream organisms are having a hard time this summer in various locations across the state. It would be interesting to hear more from our members if they have any results from their monitoring programs or research projects on this topic. I have heard from one of my colleagues, Dr. Sammy Ray at TAMUG, that high salinities in some of our Texas Bays have most likely been responsible for a major outbreak of oyster drills which are major predators of oysters. It will be interesting to see what effects our current drought will have on our aquatic resources.



Well, we are moving along with plans for next year's annual meeting. The theme that has emerged from discussions is "Exotics and their Impact on Texas Fisheries and Aquatic Resources". I am in the process of evaluating sites and locking down a location for next year's annual meeting. Currently, I am looking at two possible locations in the Houston / Galveston area. One is in Galveston and the other is in Houston. I am meeting with representatives to see which site will provide us with the best venues. It is too early to say which site will be selected but my goal is to find a place that will meet our Chapter's needs and ideally provide us with some

unique "extras" that will make this a memorable annual meeting. As with past meetings, our goal is to provide an educational venue for our members on current topics important to fishery scientists and managers AND, most importantly, an opportunity to reconnect and meet friends and colleagues and have some FUN. The ExCom will meet later this summer to confirm the meeting location. When the next newsletter comes out we will have some more definitive information on the meeting.

Take care, pray for rain, and try to stay cool this summer!

If you wish to volunteer or if you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email (guillen@uhcl.edu) or call me at 281-283-3950.

AFS Student Sub-units Wanted

by Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson

Currently the Texas Chapter of American Fisheries Society has two student sub-units: Texas A & M, and Texas Tech. These sub-units function as clubs on their respective campuses, electing officers, holding meetings and socials, and sending representatives to the annual Texas Chapter meeting. As a charter member of the Texas Tech sub-unit, I can vouch for how much fun it is, and also how valuable it is as a career-advancing activity.

Even though there are only the two active student sub-units right now, we all know that there are many other enthusiastic fisheries students in Texas at many other schools. We see them giving excellent presentations at the Texas Chapter meeting every year. I'm here to try and convince you guys (you know who you are) to take the next step in professional development, and form a new student sub-unit on your campus.

Being part of a student sub-unit has many benefits. One is the opportunity to develop leadership skills through being an elected officer. Another is the built-in networking aspect of being an official unit of American Fisheries Society; we all know how important networking can be to finding the perfect job. If your university distributes activity funds to official campus organizations, your student sub-unit may be able to tap into those for things like travel to AFS meetings, inviting speakers from across the country to your school, or holding an outreach event. As long as you've got a faculty member and six or more students (undergrads or grad students) who are

interested, there's no reason not to form your own student sub-unit!

The American Fisheries Society constitution spells out how to form a new student sub-unit. The following was pulled directly from Article 5 of that document:

- iii. STUDENT SUBUNITS are defined by academic institutions and are maintained under the auspices of Chapters. They are intended to advance the Society's objectives through involvement of student members at the level of colleges and universities.
 - a. A petition to create a Student Subunit must be signed by at least 6 Active Members and an AFS member faculty advisor at the University or College. Formation of a Student Subunit shall be overseen by the Chapter within whose geographical boundaries it occurs.
 - b. The Student Subunit operates under the auspices of the Chapter within whose geographical boundaries it occurs.
2. A new unit or student subunit becomes official when the following conditions have been met.
 - A. Its petition for recognition, clearly defining its intended purpose and its geographic or disciplinary boundaries, and signed by the number of Active Members specified in Article V. 1. has been approved by the membership at an annual or special meeting; a Chapter petition also must be approved by the officers of the Division in which the new Chapter may reside; a student subunit petition also must be approved by the officers of the Chapter in which the new subunit will reside.
 - B. Its bylaws have been approved by the Governing Board for conformity with the Society's Constitution, Rules and Procedures.
 - C. It has elected a slate of officers as specified in Article V. 3. and reported it to the Executive Director.
 - D. In the case of a Section, it has demonstrated at least 50 membership pledges.
 - E. The Executive Director has notified the unit president in writing that the unit's petition, bylaws, and elections have been approved. The letter date is the unit's founding date.

If you would like more information on how to get started in this process, contact me. I would be more than happy to help!

Mandy Scott
Texas Chapter AFS Student Outreach Chair
(325) 651-5556
mandy.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us



Leadership

by Michele Nations, Historian

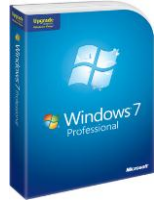
What does it take to start and keep alive an organization like the Texas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society? I looked over the list of people who are past and future presidents of the TCAFS, and I see strong men and women, who have managed the Chapter through growth in the bad times, as well as the good. The list encompasses people from such entities as Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas A & M University, Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University), Texas Tech. University, and University of Houston at Clear Lake. These people have inspired fisheries and hatchery students and professionals to integrate knowledge, skills, talents, and abilities into a forward-looking team, pulling together to manage our vast Texas resources. The list of past presidents (i.e., Ed Bonn, Bobby Whiteside, Gene Wilde, Loraine Fries, Fran Gelwick, and Dave Terre), the current president (Craig Bonds), and the president-elect (George Guillen) display the qualities of leadership that we can all be proud of and attempt to emulate.

Ray Mathews wrote a very interesting history, (<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/history/TCAFSHist.pdf>), which I have plans to bring up-to-date with the current happenings. Ben Neeley, Kevin Storey, and I will be working on a Facebook page for the Chapter, so be on the lookout for that!

Some great offers for students

Microsoft software:

- Windows 7 Professional upgrade for students - **\$29.99**. List price \$199.99. Savings; incredible! Windows 7 Professional includes all the features of Home Premium and you can also run many Windows XP productivity programs in Windows XP Mode and recover your data easily with automatic back-ups to your home network. You are eligible to upgrade from 32 or 64-bit versions of Windows Vista or XP. See the following page for details; <http://www.microsoft.com/student/en/us/windows/buynow>



You must have a valid e-mail address at an educational institution ending with the domain suffix .EDU (i.e., leina@contoso.edu) OR have a valid email address at one of the educational institutions listed

AND

You must be a student at a U.S. educational institution and must be actively enrolled in at least 0.5 course credit and be able to provide proof of enrollment upon request.

- You can also get Microsoft Office Professional Academic 2010 for **\$79.95**. Compare that with the Office Professional 2010 which lists at \$499.99! Both of these packages include Word 2010, Excel 2010, Power Point 2010, Outlook 2010, OneNote 2010, Publisher 2010, and Access 2010. Which one are you going to buy? If you will ever need it, better do it before you leave school. To get started go to: <http://www.microsoft.com/student/en/us/office/default.aspx>

Amazon Student:

- If you are a fan of Amazon.com and you'd like to save money on shipping check out Amazon Student. This free membership program was created for college students. Sign up and receive Amazon Prime free for one year. You'll get Free Two-Day shipping and e-mail alerts for discounts and promotions. <http://www.amazon.com/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=200500380>



In the news

Congratulations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Redfish Bay State Scientific Area Seagrass Team who will receive an Outstanding Team Award at the agency's upcoming Employee Recognition Awards on August 23, 2011. Of the 10 members on this team, 5 are members of the Texas Chapter AFS. Congratulations to:

- Willy Cupit
- Faye Grubbs
- Ed Hegen
- Jeremy Leitz
- Perry Trial.

Great work guys!



The TCAFS ExCom recently received a request from the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society for financial support to publish a text book by the Small Impoundments Committee. The text book focuses on farm pond and small impoundment management with some of the book's chapters having TCAFS members as authors. The ExCom unanimously voted to support the project with a \$500.00 donation.

Feature article:

Texas Parks & Wildlife increases biological control of Giant Salvinia

By Chris Moret, TPWD Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Program, Jasper, TX

Invasive aquatic vegetation such as giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) is one of the greatest threats to the aquatic resources of Texas. Salvinia was most likely transported from South America to the U.S. through the aquatic garden or aquarium trade. It was first discovered in the Houston area in 1998 and is now reported on 17 Texas reservoirs. Given ideal growing conditions, giant salvinia can double the area it covers in 7-10 days forming thick mats that disrupt water chemistry, render aquatic habitat unsuitable for native species and interfere with boating access.

Effective management of giant salvinia begins with public awareness and requires the integration of techniques such as: containment, physical removal, herbicide applications and biological control. The only proven biological control agent for giant salvinia is the giant salvinia weevil (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*).

The adult salvinia weevil is about 2 millimeters long and is native to Southeastern Brazil where giant salvinia is found. The lifespan of the salvinia weevil is about 200 days under optimum conditions. A female salvinia weevil will lay one egg every 2 to 5 days in cavities in the plant's stem created by feeding. The newly hatched larvae feed on young terminal buds and transition to feeding on fronds in the adult phase. Research has indicated that the weevil is "plant specific" to salvinia and poses no threat to native plant species.



The salvinia weevil has proven highly effective in controlling salvinia in equatorial regions and areas with climates similar to their native range in South America. Large scale releases of salvinia weevils began on Toledo Bend in 2004. For the past 7 years, weevils have been collected from the environment and distributed by TPWD on Toledo Bend, Caddo Lake, B.A. Steinhagen, and the Trinity National Wildlife Refuge near Liberty, Texas. Weevils are transported with infested salvinia and distributed on salvinia mats where weevil populations are low or nonexistent. Weevils are most often introduced to areas that are not easily accessible and difficult to treat with herbicides.

Research has shown weevils over-winter in east Texas, although a significant reduction of adult weevils occurs every year due to cold temperatures. Weevil populations may not fully recover from cold weather until late spring or early summer. In the meantime, giant salvinia continues to expand until weevil numbers reach effective levels. Therefore, to provide maximum biological control it will be necessary to raise weevils and release them to the environment in early spring and throughout the growing season.

In Texas, raising and harvesting salvinia weevils under controlled conditions has been practiced by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Lewisville Aquatic Environmental Research Facility and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS has also published extensive guidelines on raising and harvesting weevils for the purpose of controlling giant salvinia.

With financing from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the TPWD Aquatic Habitat Enhancement Office (AHE) constructed a large-scale weevil rearing facility at the Jasper Fish Hatchery in May 2010. An additional weevil rearing facility, funded by a grant from Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison was built by the cooperative efforts of TPWD and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Karnack, TX. The Caddo facility was completed in September 2010 and will supplement weevil populations on Caddo Lake and nearby reservoirs as necessary.

It is important to remember that biological control is a long-term option. It may take years of research and focused management for the weevils to reach their full potential. Even in the best case scenario, a biological

control agent will minimize – not eradicate the target species. As East Texas heads into the warmer months of spring and summer AHE will concentrate on raising and distributing as many weevils as possible to establish effective populations where needed.

TPWD encourages everyone to help protect our natural resources and carefully remove all vegetation from your boat, trailer, and other equipment when leaving the boat ramp. Learn to identify invasive aquatic vegetation you may encounter and report any suspicious vegetation immediately.



TCAFS EXCOM and Committees Meeting Report **April 6, 2011 Tyler, Texas** *by Robert Mauk, Secretary Treasurer*

Those attending: Craig Bonds, George Guillen, Robert Mauk, Dan Bennet, Chris Moret, Kevin Storey, Greg Conley, Mandy Scott, and attending via Skype were Dave Terre, John Taylor, and John Tibbs.

Approval of minutes: Approval of the previous meeting's minutes were tabled until the next EXCOM meeting to allow for some minor editing.

Secretary Treasurer's report: (Greg Conley)

- The Chapter's cash account balance as of the EXCOM meeting was slightly less than \$28,000.00.
- After all of the annual meeting bills are paid, it is anticipated that around \$16,000.00 will be moved into the endowment fund.
- Greg was completing the training of Robert Mauk who took over as the chapter's newly elected secretary/treasurer.

President Elect report: (George Guillen)

- Discussed planning and possibilities for the 2012 TCAFS annual meeting.
- Considering the topic of "Invasives" for the meetings theme.

Committee Reports:

Awards (Matt Chumchal)

- Matt would welcome and encourages chapter members to serve on the committee.
- Matt requested that a solicitation for volunteers to serve as judges for oral and poster presentations at the chapter's annual meeting be added to the registration form so members can check a box if they are

interested in serving.

Continuing Education – (Dan Bennett)

- The committee is currently exploring topics for the next annual meeting continuing education session. Most likely the topic will tie in to the theme of the 2012 annual meeting.

Editorial – (Dan Daugherty and Tim Birdsong)

- The committee is continuing with the preparation of the 2010 and 2011 proceedings for electronic format publication.

Endowments – (Dave Terre)

- Dave announced that the endowment fund balance as of February 28th was \$122,700.00.
- Endowments had received thank you notes from all the students who received scholarships at the 2011 TCAFS annual meeting.
- Dave had not heard anything new from the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth on the new scholarship award program.

History – (Michele Nations)

- Michele reported placing TCAFS photos at N:/Michele/TCAFS 2011.
- Michele is cataloguing photos with names and dates.
- Michele requested an updated membership list.

Internet – (John Taylor and Janet Wisian)

- Committee reported that the website has been updated to show the new EXCOM leadership.
- John discussed the use of new online technology such as Google Docs for Chapter website information such as a current membership list.

Issues – (Chris Moret and Niki Ragan)

- Reported on efforts to control giant salvinia that is currently being undertaken.

Membership – (Dennis Smith)

- Dennis announced his intention of leaving the chair position of the membership committee after nearly a decade of service.

Newsletter – (Kevin Storey)

- Kevin requested an updated membership list for newsletter distribution.
- Requested news items and committee reports be sent to him by a May 13th deadline for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter.

Nominating – (John Clayton)

- No report

Pond Management – (John Tibbs)

- John requested a list of those who expressed interest in serving on the committee when registering for the annual meeting be forwarded to him.

Publicity/Exhibits – (Ben Neely and Greg Conley)

-
- Reported that thank you notes have been sent to those who supported the chapter through donations for the annual chapter meeting.
 - Reported several new members have joined the committee.

Scholarships – (Mike Morgan)

- Stated that the goals for the Scholarship Committee this year are to 1) add more university point-of-contacts, and 2) possibly revise committee procedures with respect to number of awards per degree category.

Student Outreach – (Mandy Scott)

- Reported that Bass Brigades received more applications than they had open spots for the upcoming camp.
- Thanked the TCAFS for a \$300.00 donation to support the Bass Brigade.
- Discussed student subunits at Texas universities.

Old Business:

- A. No old business.

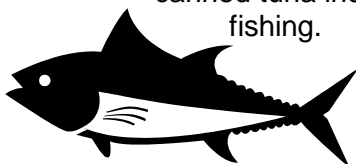
New Business:

1. Donation solicitation to AFS and SDAFS meetings
 - TCAFS is being solicited by the parent society and the southern division to make donations to help defray the costs of their meetings.
 - Members at the meeting stated their believe that it would better serve the Texas chapter membership not to give donations directly for the cost of the meeting, but look at a case by case basis of supporting individual travel to these meetings. Factors to consider when deciding if to support travel would include such things as financial need, importance to chapter and state of an individual attending these meetings (e.g. chapter, divisional, and parental AFS office holders), etc.
2. TCAFS Guidance Document/Bylaws Update
 - The .pdf online TCAFS Guidance Document is lacking items such as endowments and needs to be updated.
 - John Taylor suggested that it be put in Google.doc format for easy sharing and updating.
 - Craig will assign document sections to committee chairs for their suggestions as how to update/improve the document.

Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

➤ Ship sails in search of sustainable tuna

In early May, scientists set sail on a two-month research cruise in the Pacific off the central American coast to look for ways to reduce the bycatch from tuna fishing. This is an initiative of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation <http://iss-foundation.org/> and it will explore methods of reducing mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tunas while maximizing catches of skipjack, a fecund species that forms the basis of the canned tuna industry. Bigeye are an endangered species in the Pacific primarily because of fishing.



"One of the things we're doing is behavioral studies using acoustic tags and telemetry," said research leader Dr. Kurt Schaefer, a research scientist with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC). "We'll be tagging these

species, and trying to see whether there are times when you see separation either horizontally or vertically in the water, and whether you could use this to separate out catches". Fish will be filmed using underwater ROVs to see how they behave as they are captured in purse-seines.

➤ **Florida's leatherback turtle baby boom**

Conservation efforts mandated under the Endangered Species Act appear to be paying off for Atlantic leatherback turtles on the Florida coast. Over the last 30 years, the number of turtle nests on 68 beaches across the state has increased by approximately 10% every year according to a paper published by Stewart et al (2011) in Vol 21, Issue 1 of Ecological Applications

<http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/09-1838.1> Despite the fact that Florida's leatherback population is probably includes less than 1,000 individuals, the nesting population may help achieve objectives in the federal recovery plan. This exponential growth rate mirrors trends observed in other Atlantic populations.



"Changing ocean conditions linked to climate variability may be altering the marine food web and creating an environment that favors turtles by reducing the number of predators and increasing the abundance of prey, particularly jellyfish." according to Larry B. Crowder director of the Duke Center for Marine Conservation and a co-author of the paper. Kelly Stewart, the paper's lead author commented that having an abundant food supply of jellyfish enables female leatherbacks to build up fat reserves rapidly and nest more frequently. She also said that reduced populations of large predators, including the collapse of shark populations in the northwest Atlantic over the past decade, may also be decreasing mortality rates of juvenile and young adult turtles at sea further enhancing the turtles' recovery.

➤ **Llano River included in 10 "Waters to Watch" for 2011**

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan www.fishhabitat.org recently released their top 10 "Waters to Watch", a list of rivers, streams, estuaries, watershed systems, and shores that will benefit from habitat conservation efforts to protect, restore, or enhance their condition. Conservation plans in essential freshwater, estuarine, and marine habitats are implemented by regional Fish Habitat Partnerships that were formed to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The first "Waters to Watch" list was unveiled in 2007 and in 2011 will feature its 50th project. Since 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided \$12 million to support 257 on-the-ground Action Plan projects in 43 states, leveraging \$30 million in partner match, to address the priorities of Action Plan Fish Habitat Partnerships. Additional funds have been provided by several other State and Federal agencies and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and industry partners.

The purpose of the Llano River project is to work with willing landowners to protect and improve aquatic habitats of Guadalupe bass and other species in the Llano River. Through more than \$1.4M in grants and donations from project sponsors, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Anheuser-Busch Corporation, project partners are taking action to protect and restore instream, riparian and upland habitats in the Llano River Watershed that support healthy habitats, natural ecosystems and sustainable populations of Guadalupe bass. Specific actions include stream bank stabilization and reestablishment of native vegetation to support functional riparian zones, removal or redesign of road crossings that serve as barriers to fish passage or that alter natural fluvial processes in the river, instream structural



habitat enhancements, including placement of root wads, log and boulder complexes that support sustainable populations of Guadalupe bass and other native fishes, and upland grasslands restoration to support recharge of springs and restored hydrologic flows.

➔ **Imperiled seagrasses**

Seagrasses are flowering plants that grow on the ocean floor where they act as nurseries for young fish and shellfish. They are also the primary food for large marine mammals such as manatees and dugongs, as well as reptiles such as some sea turtles. Additionally they contribute to the health of coral reefs and mangroves, salt marshes and oyster reefs. Unfortunately many species around the world are disappearing and some are faced with extinction. The first global survey of individual seagrass species has found 14% are at risk of extinction and more common species are in decline. Seagrass habitat and diversity is declining.



Three workshops were held to gather information about individual seagrasses and to evaluate the risk posed to each species. These were hosted by Conservation International, the Global Marine Species Assessment Program at Old Dominion University and SeagrassNet <http://www.seagrassnet.org/> an international seagrass monitoring program with 114 sites around the world. Of 72 species reviewed, 15 should be considered Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened and 10 of those face a significant risk of extinction. However, they are not listed under the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List.

Professor Frederick Short, of the University of Hampshire in Durham and U.S. director of SeagrassNet, said seagrasses have disappeared from the most developed coastlines due to pollution and they are declining in the developing world due to sedimentation caused by runoff from impacted watersheds and deforestation, and being overloaded with nutrients flowing into the sea from sewage and agricultural runoff. The article is currently in press in Biological Conservation <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320711001327>

Earth Day lives on

Earth Day has come and gone but for many of us the challenge to be more responsible stewards of our resources is an ongoing effort. Here are some resources that will hopefully provide some food for thought. Remember we can set a profound example (both negative and positive) by the way we conduct ourselves.



➔ **Got electronics? Need cash?**

Got gadgets that you want to sell and don't want to mess with ebay or Craigslist? Sites like Gazelle <http://www.gazelle.com/> or NextWorth <http://www.nextworth.com/> buy used electronics. Amazon.com has also introduced an Electronics Trade-In store that will reward your trade with a gift card. <http://www.amazon.com/Electronics-Trade-In/b?ie=UTF8&node=2226766011>

➔ **Recycle old gadgets**

So you've got a collection of electronic devices that are just collecting dust and you don't want to add them to your local landfill, what do you do? Engadget has put together a list of links to major manufacturers of computers, printers, wireless carriers etc that provides information on programs to take this stuff off your hands. <http://www.engadget.com/2009/10/27/how-to-recycle-your-old-gadgets/>

➤ Printer cartridges

What do you do when it's time to replace your toner cartridges? Where does the empty one go? Into the trash or back to the manufacturer? Major manufacturers will recycle empties and they'll pay for the shipping. In some cases pre-paid shipping labels are included with new cartridges.

- Konica Minolta Clean Planet Program <http://kmb.s.konicaminolta.us/content/environment/konica-minolta-recycling.html>
- HP Planet Partners Return and Recycling Program accepts inkjet and LaserJet cartridges <http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/globalcitizenship/environment/recycling/product-recycling.html>
- Canon Cartridge Return Program <http://www.ereturn.usa.canon.com/>
- Lexmark Collection and Recycling Program http://www1.lexmark.com/en_US/about-us/collecting-recycling-program/recycling-program-other-countries.shtml

➤ How to recycle anything

If you've been bitten by the recycling bug, here is a resource that gives information on recycling anything from Aerosol cans to Zippered plastic bags. <http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/organizing/tips-techniques/recycle-anything-0000000006117/index.html>

Freebies for the busy fisheries professional!

➤ Amazon Cloud Storage

Could you use some cheap cloud storage? If you've got an Amazon account you now have access to 5 GB of free online storage space. This comes along with a "Cloud Player for Web" that enables you to play music stored in your account through a web browser. If you've got an Android device, you can install the Amazon MP3 for Android. Buy one Amazon MP3 album by 11:59PM PST on December 31, 2011, and your storage will automatically be upgraded to 20 GB for 1 year. The regular cost of a 20 GB account is \$20 annually. Any MP3s that you purchase from Amazon are automatically stored in the "cloud" and they don't count against your storage limit. You can upload any files to your account including music acquired from other sources. All of your stored music is accessible through the "Cloud Player".

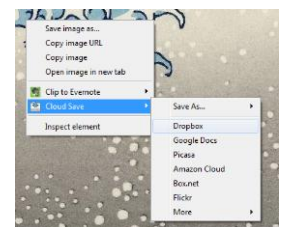
https://www.amazon.com/clouddrive/learnmore/ref=sa_menu_acd_lrn2



➤ Chrome Cloud Save

If you use Google's Chrome browser and you've got a cloud storage account with Amazon Cloud, Dropbox, Google Docs, or a list of other sources, you can save files that you encounter through the browser directly to your storage account. Save graphic images, pdf files etc by right clicking and accessing the context menu. Install this extension through the Chrome Web Store at:

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/omiekjeapoonbhiemenfoccbdpeagdah>



➤ Polish your PowerPoint skills

Microsoft has a resource website called Slide School 101 where you can learn from common mistakes, download examples, view videos and read tips to make your presentations more effective. You can also view the best entries in The First PowerPoint Awards Festival. <http://www.microsoft.com/office/powerpoint-slidefest/slide-school-101.aspx>

➤ World Backup Day

By now you are probably noticing a common theme in this column. I have some OCD tendencies and I am going to use my position to stress how important it is to make data backup a part of your everyday work schedule. I don't want you to be one of the sad professionals who says "If only I had backed up my data". No excuses! Take action now! Any good strategy should include storage in local and offsite locations.

Offsite storage can be external hard drives that are physically removed from your worksite and/or online strategies. It won't do you any good to have robust backups if they are not protected from theft or loss in natural disasters.

In case you didn't know, May 31st is World Backup Day. You can get some background information on backups from the following website: <http://worldbackupday.net/>. Lifehacker picked up on this and made some recommendations on different strategies based on feedback from their readers:

<http://lifehacker.com/5787368/its-world-backup-day-heres-how-to-avoid-inevitable-disasters>

For a listing of online backup solutions see: <http://www.onlinebackupdeals.com/online-backup-comparison/>

➤ Share files online

To satisfy the need to quickly and easily share files, a number of sites have sprung up on the Internet catering to this audience. I don't have any firsthand experience with them so I can't give a recommendation.

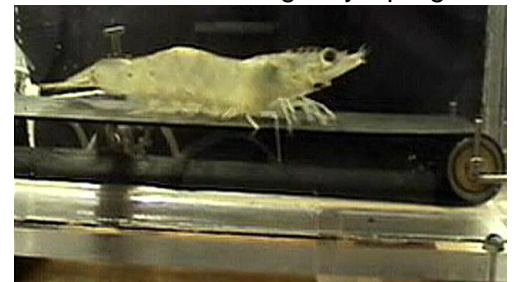
Minus <http://min.us/> and Fyels <http://fyels.com/> are both pretty spartan sites and the services are free. There's no software to install. Just drag and drop files directly from your desktop to the website, it will generate a URL which you can share with your intended audience. They currently work in most browsers, but apparently have problems with Internet Explorer.

With minus you don't need to create an account to use the site, but it's far too limited to be useful without signing up. Once you create a free account you can add files and share them. By default, uploaded files are private, but you can switch the setting to public and anyone can browse your profile page to see the file. There are other upload options as well, such as a desktop app that supports drag and drop uploads, and apps for iPhone, Windows Phone 7, and Android. There's a 50MB file size limit, probably to prevent minus from being used to share video and other large media files. For more information <http://min.us/pages/faq>

On the Fyels home page it claims to accept files up to 9GB, but on the site it lists a 25 MB limit! I don't understand that contradiction, but hey it's free. Using Fyels could not be simpler; there's no registration required. To use it, just drag a file into the interface and wait while it's copied. You'll get a URL to share, as well as a password you can use to delete the file when you're done with it. (The file will also expire on its own, though it's not clear how quickly that happens.)

Shrimp on a treadmill

On May 26, 2011, U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., issued a 73-page report, "The National Science Foundation: Under the Microscope," after months of signals from GOP leaders that the agency's programs would be targeted. One of the projects singled out in the report was a decade-long study of marine locomotion that involved putting shrimp on an underwater treadmill and comparing how sickness impaired their movement. That particular study was supported by a \$559,681 award from NSF, and the research group at the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Laboratory received 12 grants totaling over \$3 million during the past decade, Coburn reported. The scientists also received a lot of publicity, including a spot on NBC's TODAY show.



A video showing the shrimp in action has been set to background music and has spawned an Internet phenomenon!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMO8Pyi3UpY>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX2lef4kjrl&feature=player_embedded

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.

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