



President's message

by George Guillen

Fellow TCAFS colleagues, we held our Chapter's annual meeting February 9-11, 2012, at the Moody Gardens Hotel and Conference Center in Galveston. Attendance was great again this year based on our official figure of 193 registered guests, comprising a diverse mix of professionals and students. Sixty four participated in Thursday's continuing education workshop on Freshwater Mussel Ecology and Identification offered by Robert Howells and 77 attended the Invasive Species Workshop instructed by Luci Cook-Hildreth. Both workshops received great reviews and provided training on the identification and ecology of Texas freshwater mussels and important invasive species respectively. The plenary session consisted of five talks, each adhering to a common theme (Invasive Species and their Impacts on Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems). Thirty-two technical presentations and twenty posters provided quality and timely information transfer opportunities. Podcasts of plenary and technical presentations are available for viewing online (<http://www.sdafs.org/tcafs/meetings/12meet/TCAFS2012/>). The host hotel provided an excellent venue for our meeting. We are especially thankful to Greg Whittaker, Animal Husbandry Manager, of the Moody Gardens Aquarium and Rain Garden exhibits who gave TCAFS members complimentary passes to each exhibit during the entire meeting, and hosted the Thursday night student social at the aquarium, and also provided behind the scene tours for interested members. Mr. Whittaker was also one of the plenary speakers who gave an interesting presentation on the public aquarium industry and their role in the management of aquatic invasive species and release of aquarium specimens. I would like to thank the army of volunteers that helped make the meeting a success. We are especially grateful to Robert Mauk and the registration team (Jimmie Green and Patsy Berry - Staff Services Officers for TPWD Inland Fisheries; Tyler and Waco, respectively), Danny Lewis and his associates for recording, editing, and publishing the presentation podcasts, Craig Bonds for presiding and advising me, Ken Kurzawski for providing assistance and useful advice throughout the meeting, Dan Daugherty and Tim Birdsong for organizing the review of submitted presentations and posters and for putting together a phenomenal program, Greg Conley and Brad Littrell for collecting an awesome assortment of raffle/auction items, Paul Fleming for stepping up to the challenge and filling the big shoes of now retired Bruce Hysmith. Paul did an awesome job of auctioneering!! Special thanks to Michelle Nations and Kevin Storey for taking pictures. Many thanks go out to Matt Chumchal and the Awards Committee for their hard work facilitating the recognition of our peers for outstanding work. I would like to also thank Mandy Scott who did a great job organizing the student mentor luncheon this year. As in past years it was great to see our many talented student members receive generous scholarships from our various programs. This would not be possible without the ongoing work of



Dave Terre, Mike Morgan, and Ray Mathews who have done a phenomenal job administering student scholarships and soliciting funding support this last year. Speaking of funding we want to give special recognition to our meeting sponsors (Silver-Level Sponsor: Sea Grant Texas; Bronze Level Sponsors: Water Monitoring Solutions, and HACH). Also, special recognition goes out to Randy Rushin and Water Monitoring Solutions who celebrated their 10 year anniversary by matching donations during the Friday night auction. Finally we want to thank our Student Scholarship sponsors including the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation, Sportsmen Club of Fort Worth, and Water Monitoring Solutions – Randy Rushin. Last but not least we want to thank all the presenters and session moderators for making this a great meeting.

Since our meeting, important changes have occurred in the leadership of one of our key subcommittees. After numerous years of dedicated service to the Clark Hubbs Student Research Scholarship Sub-Committee, Mr. Ray Mathews has stepped down as Chairman. Ray along with the other founding sub-committee members was instrumental in building the scholarship fund to the point it is today. However, we are excited to welcome Mr. Kevin Mayes who has agreed to serve as the new Chair of this important sub-committee.

If you are interested in serving the Chapter please let us know. I consider it an honor and a privilege to help TCAFS and our members. For you younger members it is a great opportunity to meet and get to know fellow members of your profession in other organizations or geographic areas, while helping support and promote the fisheries profession. Many of our older members have served for much of our 37-year Chapter history. Even though our committee leader positions are filled for this year, it does not preclude anyone from volunteering their efforts as a committee member. You will not regret the experience and opportunity to serve!

As I stated in my remarks at the business meeting in Galveston, my top priority this year is to continue the good work started by our past president and to support several initiatives started by the Parent Society and/or Division level including the new Fisheries Reports series. In recent years, the parent society, through its Fisheries InfoBase, has provided access to published peer-reviewed literature going back to 1872. What has been missing is access to the so-called "gray literature"--publications of government agencies (state/province, federal, international) and other organizations that are usually not included in the journal or book literature. And yet that information is not only pertinent but often of high quality and wide utility. For example, many of the old TPWD District reports whether they are old DJ reports or special studies or even written correspondence are sometimes the ONLY data on historical conditions of fisheries and aquatic resources in Texas. These data need to be made widely available as future fishery investigators evaluate the ongoing changes in land-use, hydrology and water quality on our important fishery resources. To address that gap in the information spectrum, the parent society is launching its Fisheries Reports, a searchable database of abstracts, authors, and links related to these reports. If you are the author of such a report or know about it, please consider submitting it to Fisheries Reports, either directly or through the moderator at farasha@farashaeuker.com. Several agency members of TCAFS are discussing how we might more efficiently facilitate this transfer. This will be discussed at our upcoming spring EXCOM committee meeting. If you have any ideas let us know. Also, this does not just apply to fishery agencies but also environmental agencies (e.g. TCEQ and its predecessor agencies), water resources agencies (e.g. TWDB) and even university contract technical reports.

President-elect's message

by Richard Ott

The field of fisheries is in flux. What was just blood and guts sport fish management 30 years ago is now aquatic ecology encompassing a much broader range of topics and disciplines. Furthermore the age of instant electronic communication is including stakeholders that previously had little interest in fish or fisheries in topics that influence fish habitat management. The recent conflict between property owners and anglers regarding stump cutting at Lake Conroe illustrates how different perspectives can influence the actions of the agencies that manage and improve fisheries. What would seem like a simple plan to mark safe boat lanes becomes much more complicated when differing opinions on a plan are offered by stakeholders with different perspectives and those perspectives are mutually exclusive.

What does this mean for the membership of Texas Chapter American Fisheries Society? Well, maybe it means we have been too narrow in the marketing of our membership to just scientists and regulators. Maybe it is time that we make an effort to include not only anglers (as we did at the Grapevine meeting in 2005) but also reservoir and river controlling authorities, property owner groups, GIS/GPS users, outdoor recreationists, and governmental entities with an interest in clean water. This may be a hard sell at first; "American Fisheries what?" they will ask, but in the long run our society will be better served and will be able to better serve.

Past-President's Message

by Craig Bonds

Fellow fisheries professionals, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for allowing me to serve as your Chapter President this past year. I hold the Chapter, its purpose, and its members in high regard. It was an honor and a privilege to give my time and efforts to its stewardship. I would like to thank the Chapter EXCOM, Committee Chairs, and the army of volunteers that keep this organization operating. I recently submitted our chapter-approved bylaws revision to the Southern Division EXCOM for their approval. The next step will be seeking approval from the AFS Governing Board. I will continue to shepherd this process. Finally, I look forward to this year in assisting the EXCOM in whatever capacity they wish, and helping John Clayton on the Nominating Committee.

Awards Committee update

by Matt Chumchal, Awards Committee Chair

Outstanding Fisheries Worker of the Year Awards for 2011 were presented at the annual meeting in Galveston. These awards are given in several categories including Administration, Culture, Research, Student, Technical Support, and Special Recognition. Members are nominated by their colleagues and selected by the awards committee. Below are this year's award winners and a summary of their accomplishments from their nomination letter.

Administration – Craig Bonds



Craig Bonds has served as the Region 3 Director of TPWD Inland Fisheries for the past 5 years. Since that time he has emphasized research and partnerships within the region, and has maintained involvement in both areas despite additional duties at the administrative level. During the past year Craig has worked along with district staff to partner on projects with such groups as the Lake Fork Sportsman's Association, Seven Coves Bass Club, the Texas Bowfishing Association, East Texas Woods and Waters, private landowners, and more. Craig was instrumental in establishing the native aquatic plant nursery at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in 2011. He has worked along with other administration to organize the Texas Toyota Bass Classic over the last four years. Craig has

encouraged the personal development of his staff through an annual book study program designed to enhance the leadership abilities and teamwork at the district level. He has worked hard to secure funding for improved and updated facilities and equipment throughout the region helping to administer the purchase and design of multiple boats, vehicles, and new district offices.

Culture – Chris Thibodeaux

Chris Thibodeaux and his AE Wood hatchery crew “advanced the science” of Guadalupe bass culture during the 2011 culture season. The Guadalupe bass stock restoration project for 2011 was high profile within TPWD and in the media as well. Under Chris Thibodeaux’s leadership, the culture and stocking process went off without a hitch, even to the point of having “all the right people” there for the stocking “photo op”. Chris and his crew used known, successful fish culture techniques and adapted them “on the fly” as needed, as they progressed through the culture process, to achieve desired end results. Chris deserves recognition and acknowledgement for his leadership and for the achievements he and his crew accomplished in the advancement of Guadalupe bass culture. Job well done!



Research – Kirk Winemiller



Dr. Winemiller’s research interests include patterns and mechanisms of resource partitioning in fish communities; life history strategies and population regulation; predator-prey interactions; relationships between form and ecological function in fishes; management of biodiversity and multi-species fisheries; food web structure and function; and responses of fluvial ecological systems to variation in flow regimes.

Dr. Winemiller is an internationally known and highly respected scientist. He has published ~178 peer-reviewed publications. In 2011 alone he co-authored eleven peer-reviewed publications, describing research in Costa Rica, Brazil, West Africa, Columbia, Venezuela, Belize, and Mexico. He work has been funded by a variety of national

and international funding agencies including the US Fulbright Program and National Science Foundation. We are lucky to have Kirk in Texas and we are proud to be able to honor him with this award.

Technical Support – Robert “Bobby” Wienecke

In recognition of 44 years of dedicated service to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division, we proudly present Robert Wienecke with this award. Given Robert’s long tenure with TPWD a more appropriate title for this award might be the “lifetime achievement award”. In service to both the Hatcheries and Management and Research branches of the division, Robert has worn many hats during his career, going above and beyond the call of duty on countless occasions to ensure success. In his current role as a senior technician at Heart of the Hills Fisheries Science Center, many projects could not be accomplished without Robert's expertise in animal husbandry and pond management. Through many years of keen observation, personal initiative, and a willingness to learn new technologies, Robert has become the "go-to" guy for not only day-to-day operations, but also during the logistical planning of research. Robert loves his work, and it is evident in everything he does; we are truly thankful to have him.

Student *Carmen G. Montana*

As a PhD student in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University, Carmen Montaña's ecological research on fish ecology in rivers already is helping to solve challenges in fisheries management and biodiversity conservation in both Texas and Latin America. Carmen already has produced 21 peer-reviewed journal publications in fisheries and ecology journals plus three book chapters and one popular article. She has presented more than a dozen papers at local and international scientific conferences. Carmen Montaña has distinguished herself by demonstrating a truly remarkable level of professional commitment, enthusiasm, diligence, and competence.



Special Recognition – *Seven Coves Bass Club.*

The Seven Coves Bass Club (SCBC), of Willis, Texas, near Lake Conroe, is comprised of nearly sixty members who regularly display a passion for conservation and community service. During the past six years, the club has leveraged a long list of partnerships and rallied resources needed to improve fisheries habitat on Lake Conroe. The Seven Coves Bass Club received a grant to establish a native aquatic plant nursery adjacent to their home lake and became the nation's first Friends of Reservoirs Chapter as part of the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership to raise tax-deductible funds in support of their fish habitat enhancement efforts. To date, they and their many partners have used these and other resources to plant over 3,000 native aquatic plants and over 900 artificial habitat structures in Lake Conroe. Not only do they serve their fishing interests, but strive to serve others through their involvement with the Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T.) and Make-A-Wish foundations, the local United Way, Food Banks, School Backpack campaigns, Texas' Adopt a Highway program, and they serve as boat guardians for fundraising swimmers across Lake Conroe.



The nominator said about Seven Coves Bass Club - In my career as a natural resource manager, I have never experienced an angling organization quite like them. Their membership and resources are relatively small, but their activism, commitment, open-mindedness, and self-motivated work ethic is remarkable. They represent the "ideal" partner to work towards a common goal of enhancing fish habitat and keeping Lake Conroe, and Texas, as a premier fishing destination and source for enriching the quality of life for countless people.

Special Recognition – *TTU-Department of Biology: Gene Wilde, Aaron Urbanczyk, Doug Knabe*

TPWD-River Studies: Kevin Mayes, Clint Robertson, Kevin Kolodzjcyk

TPWD-Hatcheries: Dale Lyon, Carl Kittel, Daniel Field, Greg Polk



In 2011, the upper Brazos River stopped flowing for a prolonged period of time during an extensive drought throughout the region. Isolated pools initially formed, then only a few of the largest pools were left by the end of summer. The Upper Brazos River is the only section of the Brazos River basin where smalleye shiners are found and is the only section of the Brazos River that supports a stable population of sharpnose shiners. Extirpation of either species in this section of river would likely lead to extinction. To ensure that neither species would go extinct during this drought and no flow period, TTU and TPWD developed a plan in early Fall to capture some remaining shiners and hold them in a TPWD hatchery, in case section-wide extirpation

occurred. On September 15-16, 2011, Texas Tech and TPWD staff collected 1,725 smalleye shiners and 1,388 sharpnose shiners and relocated them to the Possum Kingdom Hatchery. The rescue effort was extensively covered by local and national media outlets bringing attention to the importance of these endemic species as well as the drought conditions affecting the entire state.

Autumn rains added flow to the upper Brazos River, so the drought did not cause an extirpation event at this point. However, actions by TTU and TPWD set precedence for the added protection of endangered fishes.

Special Recognition – Kevin Mayes



Kevin Mayes has devoted more than 20 years to advancing the science of instream flows as a biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In the face of increasing water demand, he has been well positioned and his work has been critical to ensuring flow protection in streams and rivers through dedication and the application of science. Mr. Mayes has acted as the lead TPWD instream flow biologist for the past decade and has represented the Department on many governmental and peer panels related to flow issues. He is the Instream Flow Council (IFC) Region 3 Director (covering 14 states in the region), Governing Council member for Texas, and one of the authors of the book, *Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship*. Mr.

Mayes has strong convictions relative to conserving native species and riverine ecosystems through ensuring adequate flow regimes. He has conducted studies on the San Marcos and Guadalupe systems, as well as the Brazos, Sabine, and a variety of small streams in east Texas. He has participation in water planning efforts throughout the state, including Consensus Based Water Planning and Senate Bills 1, 2, and 3, as well as providing expert opinion in water rights deliberations.

The chapter also gives awards for the best platform and poster presentations at each annual meeting. The 2011 presentation award winners are listed below. Each awardee will receive a plaque at the 2013 annual meeting.

Best Professional Presentation: Brad Littrell (Bio-West), “Effectiveness of host snail removal in the Comal

River, Texas and its ability to reduce cercariae of the invasive gill parasite *Centrocestus formosanus* (Trematoda:Heterophyidae)”

Best Professional Poster: Raelynn Deaton (St. Edwards University), “Mating behaviors of two sympatric livebearing congeners and their putative hybrids”.

Best Student Presentation: William Smith (Texas A&M University), “Perceptions of spotted seatrout decline and associated displacement behavior among Texas inshore fishing guides”.

Best Student Poster: Dan Fitzgerald (Texas A&M University) “Are successful fish invasions only from species-rich into species-poor communities”

Special thanks to the members of the awards committee, volunteers that judged presentations at the 2012 meeting, and chapter members that took the time nominate their colleagues – your service to the chapter is greatly appreciated!

Student Outreach

by Mandy Scott, Student Outreach Chairperson

This year’s annual conference in Galveston saw great participation by students. A student-professional mixer was held in the Moody Gardens aquarium pyramid on Thursday evening, and two students earned a free string of raffle tickets for filling up their mixer cards with professionals’ signatures. The next day, 22 students from 6 different schools networked one-on-one and received a free lunch during the Student-Mentor Lunch. Many students gave oral and poster presentations. During the meeting students could browse the Jobs Board and talk to Joe Beach about how to get a foot in the door with Texas Parks and Wildlife. There was also information available from Bass Brigade, the aquatic conservation leadership program for high school youth.

Several TX Chapter members volunteered at Bass Brigade in July 2011 and helped 24 high school youth to cultivate their interest in the outdoors into a passion for conservation. Thanks so much to all of you! Many thanks are also due to the Texas Chapter for continuing their annual \$300 donation towards the camp! To find out more about Bass Brigade, check out the website at www.texasbrigades.org. This year’s Bass Brigade will be held July 9-13 at 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 or 325-651-5556.

Students, if you can find a way to make it to Minnesota for the AFS annual conference August 19-23, you will be glad you did. Activities will include a student colloquium, career fair and student social, on top of the regular contributed sessions, socials and symposia. Registration is just \$120-170 for students, and there is low-cost housing being arranged. Check out the meeting website here: <http://afs2012.org/students/> and information about the Skinner Travel Award here: http://fisheries.org/awards/awards_applications/award_skinner1/. An exciting development for Bass Brigade is the growing partnership between the camp and Texas B.A.S.S.



2012 Student Scholarship award winners



Scholarship Committee Chairman Mike Morgan (left), and Endowments Committee Chairman Dave Terre (right), pose with TCAFS Student Scholarship winners Ruben Palacios, Karen Drumhiller, and Larissa Kitchens and Harry Tennyson Scholarship by the Sportsman's Club of Fort Worth winners William E. Smith and Matt VanLandeghem.



Steven Curtis (Texas State University) (left) receives the Clark Hubbs Student Research Award from Ray Mathews.

Presentation Award winners from 2011 meeting in San Marcos

Raelynn Deaton (St. Edwards University)(right) receives the award from Chapter president Craig Bonds for Best Professional poster; , “Preliminary population estimates, microhabitat and gut content analyses of the endangered Clear Creek Gambusia, *Gambusia heterochir*” from the 2011 meeting in San Marcos.



Sandra Bibiana Carrera (right) (Texas A&M University) receives the award from Chapter president Craig Bonds for Best Student Oral presentation ; , “Inferring trophic resource partitioning among Amazonian floodplain Serrasalmid fishes from $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ stable isotopes, stomach content and eco-morphological data”.from the 2011 meeting in San Marcos.



Awards were also presented for Best Professional Presentation to David Buckmeier (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) for “Population dynamics of alligator gar in the Trinity River, Texas” and Best Student Poster to Jacob Wadlington (Texas Christian University) for “Survey of mercury concentrations in largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) from Six Dallas-Fort Worth Area Reservoirs.” Neither Dave nor Jacob were present to receive their awards.

Texas Chapter AFS Business Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2012

Galveston, Texas

by Robert Mauk, Secretary Treasurer

Call to Order: by Craig Bonds at 11:30 am.

Determination of a quorum: Yes

Approval of minutes: - Craig asked for approval of last year’s annual meeting minutes (as e-mailed to membership via Listserv-August 24, 2011 and published on the TCAFS website). Rick Ott made the motion to approve and it was seconded by Richard Kline. Motion was approved.

President’s report: (Craig Bonds)

- Craig reported that several new committee chairs had been named during 2011, including Dan Bennett on Continuing Education, Debbie Wade on Membership, and Greg Conley and Brad Littrell, co-chairs of Publicity/Exhibits.
- Craig reported that EXCOM meetings were held with remote conference participation as an option for those unable to travel and attend meetings in person. The chapter should continue to improve on this option by taking advantage of new technology.
- Craig reported the efforts and advantages of updating the TCAFS Procedural Manual by having four unique sections and having it on-line.
- Craig reported on the updates to the Chapter's bylaws and the process needed to amend them. There was no discussion and a motion was made by Ken Kurzawski to accept the bylaws revisions and was seconded by Brian VanZee. Craig asked for a vote by show of hands. Motion passed unanimously (37 for and 0 opposed). Craig stated they are now sent to the SDAFS EXCOM and Parent Society's Governing Board for acceptance.

SDAFS Officer Update:

- Craig announced that he was recently appointed to fill an unexpired term as the new SDAFS Sec/Treas. He will serve in this capacity through the 2013 SDAFS business meeting.
- Craig presented SDAFS President Brian Murphy's 2013 Division Plan of Work, focusing on protecting and strengthening communication, chapters, and committees. This effort will include identifying points of contacts within chapters to assist with uploading gray literature onto the Parent Society's online database.
- Craig also noted that the 2013 SDAFS meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, 7 – 10 February.

Secretary Treasurer's report: (Robert Mauk)

- The Chapter's cash account balance as of 1/1/2011 was \$13,835.27. The Chapter's income was \$52,452.80 for the year and expenses were \$24,461.30. A total of \$16,546.44 was transferred into the TCAFS endowment fund. The 12/31/2011 ending balance was \$25,280.33.
- There were a total of 193 registrations, including 65 students at the 2012 TCAFS annual meeting.

Committee Reports:

Awards – (Matt Chumchal)

- Matt is looking to add a new member to committee.
- Matt thanked those who volunteered to judge posters/presentations.
- 2011 Best Presentation winners are as follows: (student presentations were very close in score)
 - Best Professional Oral – Brad Littrell
 - Best Professional poster – Rae Deaton
 - Best Student Oral – William Smith
 - Best Student Poster – Dan Fitzgerald

Continuing Education – (Dan Bennett; report given by Robert Mauk)

- There were 64 participants in the Mussels workshop and 72 participants in the Invasives workshop

Editorial – (Dan Daugherty)

- Dan thanked this year's moderators for keeping things moving.
- This year there were more abstracts submitted than there were spots for presentations.
- The 2010 and 2011 annual proceedings are now complete and will soon be posted on-line.
- Work will soon begin on the 2012 annual proceedings.
- The Editorial committee has obtained hard copies of the first 17 annual proceedings, will scan them, and have them on-line in the coming year.
- Editorial committee would like to find a way to electronically submit presentations.
- The committee would like to include more presentations than turn them away. In the past we have gone from 20-min to 15-min length presentations. This year we added more time slots for a few more presentations but still had to turn several down because of the limited time. Dan mentioned an option is to have con-current sessions to accommodate all the presenters. However, this poses logistical concerns with podcasting and room/AV rentals

Endowments – (Dave Terre)

- Dave reported that Larry and Donna Courington from The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation were impressed with what they saw during the banquet and how appreciated they felt.
- Dave recognized the Sportsmen's Club of Ft. Worth, The Patsy B. Hollandsworth Foundation, and Randy Rushin for

the financial support of student scholarships and the endowment fund.

- Dave reported that the endowment fund investments were down this past year (-7.3%), but has earned back much of what was lost (5.3%). The starting balance for 2011 was \$118,504 and the current balance was \$124,585.
- Income during 2011 included \$15,000 donation from the Patsy B. Hollandsworth Family Foundation; \$3,000 donation from the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth; and a \$5,000 donation from Randy Rushin. A money transfer of \$16,546 from the TCAFS checking account also occurred in the last year. This makes for a donation total of \$34,046.
- Five student scholarships totaling \$7,500 were granted the past year.
- Dave also recognized Mike Morgan and the entire Student Scholarship Selection Committee, for all their outstanding work over the past year.
- Dave 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.

History – (Michele Nations)

- Michelle reported that Ben Neely helped her with Facebook picture uploading techniques.
- TCAFS 2012 annual meeting photos had already been posted.
- Michele reported on working with the University of North Texas Portal to Texas History with getting TCAFS information uploaded to the site.
- This coming year, Michele will be requesting the biographies of members so they will be available to use for awards, obituaries, presentations, etc.
- Michele plans on researching past scholarship recipients to find out where they are and what they have been doing.

Internet – (John Taylor ; report given by Craig Bonds)

- The TCAFS website has recently undergone several improvements and additions. Website changes were largely covered during the President's report.

Issues – (Chris Moret & Niki Ragan; report given by Chris Moret)

- Chris highlighted the 2011 accomplishments which included a policy statement on removing/cutting stumps in reservoirs and the Salvinia weevil rearing initiative.
- Chris talked about future issues such as conserving habitat during low water years and new invasives that have recently been found in Texas.

Membership – (Debbie Wade; report given by Craig Bonds)

- TCAFS membership as of Dec. 31, 2011 was 167 members including 4 lifetime members through the Parent Society, 117 professional members, 5 retired through the Parent Society, 42 students, and 1 young professional through the Parent Society.
- During 2011, 61% of the TCAFS membership also belonged to the Parent Society.

Newsletter – (Kevin Storey; report given by Craig Bonds)

- In 2011, there were 4 TCAFS newsletter issues released.
- The deadline for the upcoming TCAFS newsletter edition is March 2, 2012 for all submissions.
- Reported there are issues with paid members whose names are not in the listserv database so they do not receive notifications and other communications from the chapter. Kevin requested a new list of members be sent to him after the meeting so he can update his list.
- The above issue started a debate on how to remedy the situation of members being dropped from the membership list. It was suggested that the chapter give an extended grace period and try to contact members who were going to be dropped. Some members thought they had paid and were dropped and requested that they be notified that their chapter dues were due. After much discussion, it was decided to form an Ad Hoc committee to come up with recommendations and present them at the next EXCOM meeting.

Nominating – (John Clayton; report given by Craig Bonds)

- President-elect nominations for 2011 were Rick Ott and Nate Smith. Nominating committee wants to thank both for consenting to run.
- E-mails were sent to 136 members urging them to vote on-line with 66 voting (49% voting rate).
- Twenty-four paper ballots were cast at the meeting making a total of 90 votes.
- Rick Ott was elected as the new TCAFS President-elect.

Pond Management – (John Tibbs)

- John reported that golden alga and the drought are causing problems in Texas ponds.

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- John mentioned the Pond Management presence on the TCAFS web-site.
 - John reported that the committee would like to have the Bass 101 meeting podcasts available on the TCAFS web-site.

Publicity/Exhibits – (Greg Conley and Brad Littrell; report given by Brad Littrell)

- The auction / raffle netted a profit of close to \$6,000.00 and grossed over \$7,000.00, so it was considered very successful.
- Brad reported that the chapter reached the auction/raffle goal of making \$5,000.00 which Randy Rushin matched dollar for dollar to celebrate his Company's (Water Monitoring Solutions) 10-year anniversary and his 16th consecutive TCAFS meeting attended.

Scholarships – (Mike Morgan)

- Mike thanked his committee members for all of their help in evaluating the applicants for student scholarships.
- Announcements regarding the student scholarship opportunities with TCAFS were mailed out to over 80 locations.
- A total of 5 scholarships were awarded this year by the chapter, totaling \$7,500. The Chapter was given the opportunity to determine the applicants who received the two scholarships funded by the Sportsmen's Club of Fort Worth.
- A total of 24 student scholarship applications were received this year, a large increase over the number usually received.
- Mike reported that the committee had a good pool of applicants to select from.
- Ray Mathews reported the Clark Hubbs Student Research Scholarship Sub Committee awarded one scholarship in the amount of \$500 to a deserving student. Ray mentioned that he will be stepping down as the Clark Hubbs Student Research Scholarship Sub-Committee Chair and that Kevin Mayes will be the new Chair.

Student Outreach – (Mandy Scott)

- Mandy reported that 22 students attended the student/mentor lunch representing six different universities.
- Mandy reported that currently Texas A&M and Texas Tech have TCAFS subunits but she would like to see more. Mandy reports that Niki Ragan at Sam Houston State has indicated an interest in starting a subunit there.
- Mandy reports another successful Bass Brigades year with 36 applicants for 24 spots at the camp. She also wanted to thank the TCAFS for the financial support of a cadet.

Old Business:

- No old business.

Installation of New President: George Guillen was installed as the new president. George presented Craig with the Past President's plaque.

George then outlined his goals for the upcoming year:

1. to continue the path that Craig started.
2. to explore the use of new technology in electronic communications for the TCAFS, especially with the state being so large.
3. to increase participation in the chapter and to expand membership in both the state and parent society.
4. to try to be more inclusive of the coastal membership by altering the TCAFS logo by adding a marine fish. Currently the logo only has an inland fish species (e.g. Guadalupe bass).
5. to help the Southern Division and the Parent Society in collecting gray literature and making it available to members. He commends the Parent Society for this activity.

New Business:

- Danny Lewis wanted to make the membership aware of the upcoming 20th Annual Conference of the Organization of Fish & Wildlife Information Managers to be held 15-18 October, 2012 in Austin, TX. Danny is President-elect of the organization. For more information, contact Danny or go to www.ofwim.org.

Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.





Black Bass Diversity: Multidisciplinary Science for Conservation

A special symposium is being organized to be held in conjunction with the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDFAS) Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN in February 2013. This symposium will emphasize the conservation need and diversity of black basses (genus *Micropterus*) in their native habitats. Of the nine described species or subspecies of black bass in North America, three were described in the past 12 years and more possibly exist as undescribed species (e.g., Bartram's bass and Cuatro Ciénegas bass). Many black bass populations have conservation issues related to genetic integrity and habitat degradation. Building on previous work, this symposium will highlight the conservation of native black basses in an AFS publication that contains accounts related to:

- Biology/ecology/life history requirements
- Habitat management and restoration
- Conservation genetics
- Fish populations, fisheries, and human dimensions

The symposium organizers will target scientists for invited submissions to the symposium, but contributed abstracts that fit the theme of the symposium are encouraged and will also be considered for the symposium and book. If you are conducting research on a black bass species or unique population that can contribute to the understanding or conservation of black basses, feel free to contact the steering committee at BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com for possible inclusion in the symposium. Authors of papers who want to be included in the publication must have their manuscript submitted by the date of the meeting.

Abstracts (in plain text or MS-Word) are to be submitted to BlackBassSymposium@myFWC.com by 10/31/2012 and must include:

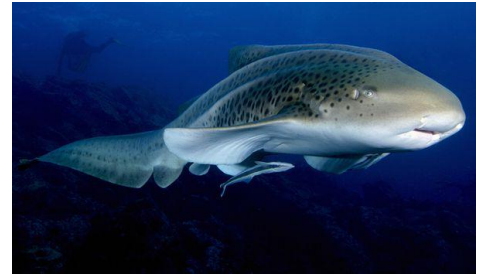
1. Type of presentation preferred (oral or poster)
2. To be considered for publication? (yes or no)
3. Presentation topic (select from below)
 - Biology/ecology/life history requirements
 - Habitat management and restoration
 - Conservation genetics
 - Fish populations, fisheries, and human dimensions
4. Title, in upper/lower case format
5. Author(s) name(s) and affiliation(s) as they should appear
6. Name of presenter, mailing address, phone, and email
7. Text of abstract in 300 words or less.



Flotsam & Jetsam – fish stories from around the world

➤ A woman needs a man, like a fish needs a bicycle!

What are the odds that a female zebra shark (*Stegostoma fasciatum* or *varium*), a native of the tropical Indo-Pacific, confined to a tank in a luxury hotel in the desert in Dubai, with no contact with males can produce offspring? It sounds like a stupid question, but Zebedee has reproduced by parthenogenesis for the last four years. The embryos are developed from eggs but they are not fertilized. They are genetically similar to their mother but they are not identical clones, since her DNA is recombined during the reproductive process.



“Virgin birth” occurs naturally in many plants, and in some invertebrates such as nematodes, some scorpions, aphids, and in some bees and parasitic wasps. This unusual form of reproduction is also documented in certain invertebrates such as a number of species of whiptails, geckos, rock lizards, blindsnakes, Komodo dragons and boa constrictors. As fate would have it, it’s been documented in other species of captive sharks including bonnethead (2001), and white-spotted bamboo sharks (2002) but never for four years in a row!

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/01/120106-virgin-birth-shark-dubai-science>

➤ Bluefin tuna sale sets new record



It may come as a shock to fisheries workers to know that not everyone is having to live with a tight budget. Despite Japan’s economic woes there are still some people, somewhat less than the fabled 1%, with money to burn. Sadly this comes at the expense of a species that is dangerously overfished. In January a bluefin tuna, the most prized species for sushi, set a record for price by weight at the Tsukiji fish market’s first auction of the year. The first auction is a cherished part of Japan’s New Year celebrations and record prices are often set. The 593 lb fish sold for the equivalent of \$736,000 which translates to \$1,241 per pound give or take a few yen. The fish was caught off Oma, in northeastern Aomori prefecture north of the coast struck by the devastating tsunami of March 2011.

The winning bid was jointly made by the owners of an upmarket Tokyo restaurant and a Hong Kong sushi chain. Kiyoshi Kimura, owner of the sushi chain told reporters the bid was an effort to “liven up Japan” and help it on the road to recovery! Sales like this only increase pressure on this imperiled

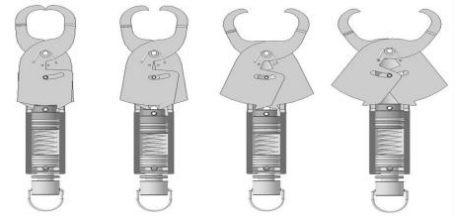
resource. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12117010>

➤ Smart Gear Competition

The World Wildlife Fund’s (WWF) International Smart Gear Competition (<http://www.smartgear.org/>) offers more than \$50,000 in prize money to attract innovative and original ideas to modify fishing gear to reduce bycatch, the accidental catch and death or non-target organisms in fishing gear such as longlines and nets. Vulnerable species include sea turtles, birds, marine mammals, cetaceans, and non-target fish. Financial support is provided by a number of governmental departments including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) along with a number of foundations and corporations. The competition is judged by an international panel comprised of gear technologists, fisheries experts, fishermen, scientists, researchers and conservationists. The first competition was held in 2005 and for the first three years prizes were awarded annually but since 2007 awards are presented every 2 years. The next completion is scheduled be held in 2013.

In 2011 the runner-up winner was a non-invasive, pressure-activated fish recompression tool called the SeaQualizer (<http://theseaqualizer.com/SeaQualizer/Welcome.html>) This device is designed to reverse the

effects of barotrauma by returning marine bottom-dwelling species such as red snapper to one of three pre-defined depths (50ft, 100ft or 150ft) so they can be recompressed and released. Barotrauma is responsible for significant mortality when these species are released at the sea surface. The manufacturers claim fish caught at depth apparently only need to be returned to between 1/3 and 1/2 the depth where they were caught in order to recompress. The devices retail for \$55.



The grand prize winner (\$30,000), the Yamazaki Double-Weighted Branchline was submitted by the captain of a Japanese tuna vessel. This device sinks pelagic longlines beyond the range of seabirds and it reduces seabird bycatch by 90% without impacting fish catch rates. It also reduced injuries to crew should the hook come free while under tension in the landing process and recoil back at the vessel. The judges also awarded a Special Tuna Prize of \$7,500 to Yamazaki to provide incentive to address an issue of major concern to WWF, the bycatch associated with tuna fisheries around the world. The Yamazaki Double-Weighted Branchline was rewarded for being simple in design, effective in trials, and its potential to be adopted on a large scale by tuna fishing fleets was considered high.

The other runner-up winner in the competition, Turtle Lights for Gillnets, was also awarded \$10,000. Shara Fisler of the Ocean Discovery Institute in San Diego, and John Wang from the University of Hawaii used LEDs or chemi-luminescent lightsticks to illuminate gillnets thereby reducing bycatch of green turtles by 60% without affecting the fishery target catch rates or catch value.

http://www.smartgear.org/smartgear_winners/2011/runner_up_winner2/

➤ Majorities rule, don't they?

Schooling fish love to be led. A computer model developed by biologist Simon Levin, of Princeton University, found that it can take just 5% of a virtual school to start moving toward a food source for the other 95% to follow — even if they don't know where they are going. The school initially contained two groups: a minority that was extremely committed to the direction in which it was swimming, and a majority moving in another direction but with less resolve. As predicted, the minority ruled, with the majority taking over only when its commitment was equal to or greater than that of the smaller group. When a third, uncommitted group was added, things changed, but not in the way the standard models suggested. Rather than moving with the most insistent swimmers, they followed the larger, less-driven group.

Evolutionary biologist Iain Couzin and his colleagues, also at Princeton, conducted an experiment with golden shiners to test this theory. These fish like many others tend to move toward light and are prone to associating the color yellow with a food reward. Researchers trained golden shiners to swim towards a blue target, while a smaller group was trained to follow their natural preference for a yellow target. When 6 blue-conditioned fish and 5 yellow-conditioned fish were placed in the same tank, the stronger desire of the yellow-conditioned fish dictated the group's response. If the majority's preference was just as strong or stronger than the minority's, the group moved in the direction favored by the majority as expected. When the intensity of the minority's preference increased, the animals as a whole frequently conceded to their desires. Where minorities had the strongest preferences, they dictated the group's response.

When a group of 5 untrained fish was introduced into the original tank, they followed the blue-conditioned majority, even though this was not their natural tendency. These uninformed individuals were ultimately most effective in the groups with the least committed minority and those with the smallest total number of members. But even in groups with the most unwavering minority, the majority wrested control with less than 10 uninformed individuals present.

The calculations indicated that during the decision-making process, all individuals have a tendency to follow what they perceive as the predominant view, but opinionated individuals are more resistant to social pressure, Couzin explained. This reluctance to compromise manipulates the perception of what is popular, meaning that the strong convictions of the minority can make their view seem dominant. Uninformed individuals, having no strong opinion or preference, tend to inhibit this process because they respond quickly to numerical rather than

semantic differences and curb the influence of forceful individuals.

"These experiments indicate there is an evolutionary function to being uninformed that perhaps is as active as being informed," Couzin said. "Animals may be equally adaptable to simply going with the majority in certain circumstances because having that quick decision-making capability is beneficial for survival. We shouldn't think of it as a bad thing, but look at advantages animals exhibit to being uninformed in natural circumstances."

<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S32/37/23Q43/index.xml?section=topstories>



Freebies for the busy fisheries professional!

➤ Free tool for sharing presentations online

No doubt at some time in your professional career you have worked on a presentation and you wanted to get feedback from your peers before you were ready for primetime. PowerPoint is the de-facto standard but it tends to create large files that can be challenging to share electronically. Reel is a web service that lets you upload documents into an online presentation. You can upload your PowerPoint file and Reel will generate a URL that you can share with your audience. They only need to have a browser to view the presentation and they have the opportunity to give a "thumbs up" or a "thumbs down" to each of the slides. You can use these comments to further refine your presentation. You are not locked into staying with PowerPoint. Your presentation can also include components from Word, PDFs, and images. This is a fast and easy way to publish slides or documents online and get some responses.

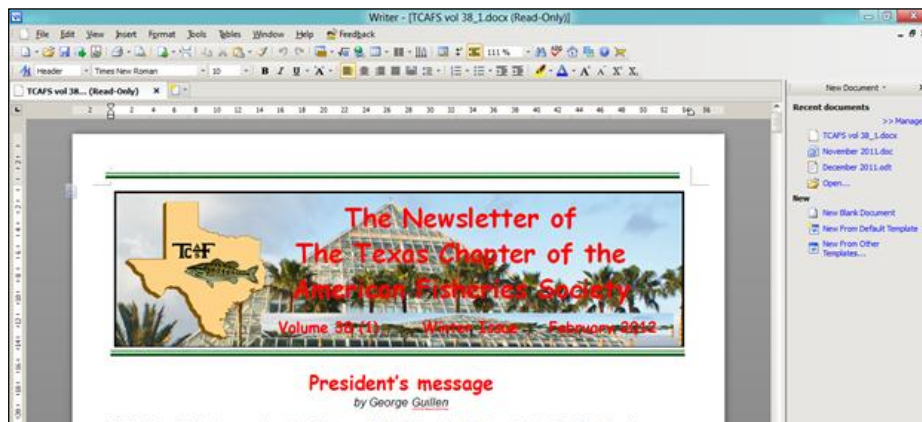


<http://www.reelapp.com/>

➤ Looking for a free Office alternative?

Microsoft has attracted many customers to its Office 2010 suite by offering extremely low prices to students and teachers. To date it has been easy for anyone to claim they were students and get the software. Microsoft was aware of the abuse and is apparently going to require proof of eligibility in the future. Many of us are fortunate enough to have access to these programs at work but it's hard to justify springing for \$250 for the Office Home and Business Suite for our home use. It used to be common for computer

manufacturers to supply a full Office suite with a new computer but nowadays you often get a 90-day trial version. There are many free products available including OpenOffice, LibreOffice, Lotus Symphony, and Google Docs. I recently read about a product called Kingsoft Office Suite Free 2012 which comes in free and paid versions (Standard - \$49.95 and Professional- \$69.95). The review was from a trusted source so I installed it on a machine running



Windows 8 Developer Preview and it seems to work just fine. There is also Office for Android Freeware which lets you create, view and edit Microsoft documents and it's also integrated with an e-mail application

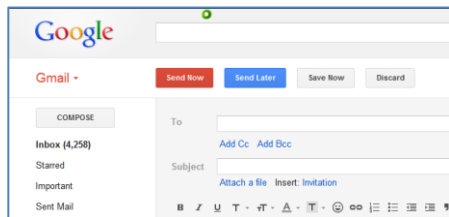
and can access Box.net and other cloud storage services. <http://www.kingsoftstore.com/kingsoft-office-freeware.html>

➤ **Video conferencing on the cheap**

MeetingBurner is a new video conferencing service that offers video, voice, and web conferencing for up to 15 participants for free. It uses an integrated conference bridge so participants can all join, make use of screen-sharing and presentation-sharing without any ads. The service is apparently fast and does not require hefty downloads or client installs first. They also offer an iPhone app so you can join meetings on-the-go. The free version is adequate for most audiences but if you need to invite more people to your meetings, MeetingBurner pro (\$39.95/month) gives all of the basic features along with recording your meetings for future reference, and lets you upload them to YouTube. I can't vouch for it but the price looks attractive! <http://www.meetingburner.com/>

➤ **Gmail users, want to schedule an e-mail to be delivered later?**

If you are like millions of others you have at least one Gmail account. Right Inbox provides an extension for the Firefox and Chrome browsers that lets you schedule your e-mail delivery time. When you install the extension it adds a new "Send later" button when you compose mail. You can specify in 1,2, or 4 hours, tomorrow morning, tomorrow afternoon or at a specific date and time. They'll never know if you were at your desk when it was sent!



<http://www.rightinbox.com/>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1zFFM36Hws>

➤ **Remember everything with Evernote**

I have recently started using Evernote to save articles I find on the web for use in the newsletter. You can also insert files such as notes, photos, audio files, pdfs, Word files etc. When you install Evernote it automatically installs a Clipper in Internet Explorer under the Tools menu (Add to Evernote4). If you prefer Firefox you'll need to install the Evernote Web Clipper and in Chrome there's a Clip to Evernote extension. All of these tools enable you to save the content from websites into Evernote for later reference. If you prefer just to save text and images from an article, install the Clearly extension in Firefox or Chrome. You can access content in your Evernote account from a browser, through the application on other computers or from mobile devices including iOS, Android, Blackberry and Windows Phone 7. If you want to you can e-mail notes directly from within the program. Microsoft Office has a comparable product called OneNote available from version 2007 onwards. The free version of Evernote limits you to 60 MB of storage per month. Evernote Premium (\$5/month) offers up to 1 GB per month if you're a digital packrat! I suspect I am just beginning to scratch the surface of this application.



<http://www.evernote.com/>

➤ **50GB of cloud storage for Android devices ... get it quickly**

If you download Box for Android and Android Tablet from the Android Marketplace by March 23 you will get 50GB of cloud storage free for life on Box.net. You can access this storage space from any device; you won't be limited to Android devices. When you install the app, log into your account or register for a new one directly from the app and your upload limit will be increased to 100MB and your account will be bumped up to 50GB from 5GB.

<https://market.android.com/details?id=com.box.android&hl=en>



The DIY project page

Roll your own NAS



FreeNAS™

Network attached storage (NAS) units have become popular devices to store data that needs to be shared on a network. They are usually external USB drives that are connected into a network through an Ethernet connection. NAS boxes contain their own operating systems and some offer USB connections to add a printer to the network or an external drive to store data backups from the NAS. If you've got a spare computer with an optical drive, a network card and an extra internal drive, you might consider building your own NAS using the FreeBSD-based open source program FreeNAS. There is an active community that supports the project and online documentation is available to help you with the project. You could build a viable device, save some money doing it and build your computing skills in the process.

The first step is to download the ISO (32-bit or 64-bit) and burn it to CD. The hard drive where you install the software will not be used for storage so it's best to use a small hard drive for your boot drive and save larger drives for storage. To install the operating system you will need to boot up the CD. Before you do this you may need to check in the system BIOS to make sure your optical drive is the primary boot device. Once you complete the system boot you will be prompted to install the operating system. Make sure you select the primary drive (ada0) and the install should complete within 5 or 10 minutes. You will be prompted to remove the CD and reboot the machine. Make sure the computer is connected to your network before proceeding. After rebooting the system will list the IP address of the NAS (ie: <http://192.168.1.100>). To configure the box you will need to enter this IP address in a browser on another computer connected to the same network. This will allow you to configure your FreeNAS in a similar manner as you would for a router. The default username is *admin* and the password is *freenas*. You can set up shares for Unix, Windows and Mac machines.

Once you have configured the system successfully, you will be able to map the storage drive as a network drive in Windows, Mac or Linux. You might want to use it to store a collection of photographs, music, documents or you could use it for your backups. If you've got a home theatre PC, Playstation 3, Xbox 360 or other UPnP-enabled device you can also stream media from your new NAS. My FreeNAS box has 2 storage drives (160 GB and 250 GB) and the boot drive is only 80 GB. I am currently using this box to store synced copies of data from a Buffalo Linkstation LS-CH500L NAS and I access it from systems running Windows XP, Windows 7, Windows 8 Customer Preview, and Linux Mint 10. Who says you can have too many copies of your data?

<http://lifehacker.com/5822590/turn-an-old-computer-into-a-networked-backup-streaming-or-torrenting-machine-with-freenas>

<http://www.freenas.org/>

http://doc.freenas.org/index.php/Main_Page



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 Deborah Wade, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX 75752, (903) 670-2234, Deborah.Wade@tpwd.state.tx.us

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